

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

2002

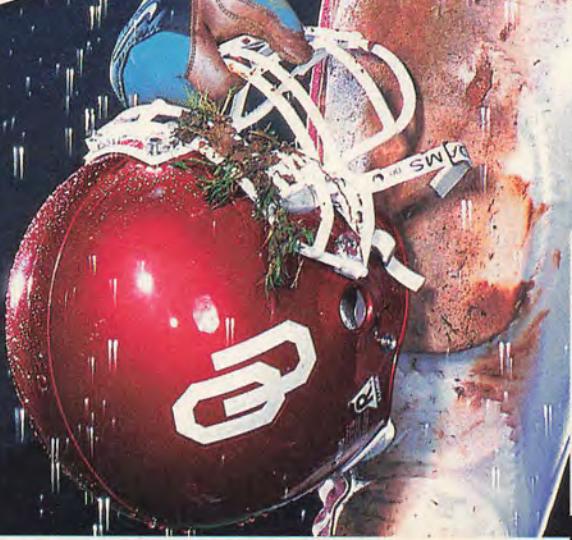
Sports Illustrated

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Mega-tackle
Tommie Harris
leads Oklahoma's
daunting defense

SI'S TOP TEN

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3. TENNESSEE • 4. TEXAS • 5. FLORIDA STATE • 6. COLORADO
7. WASHINGTON STATE • 8. FLORIDA • 9. OREGON • 10. GEORGIA





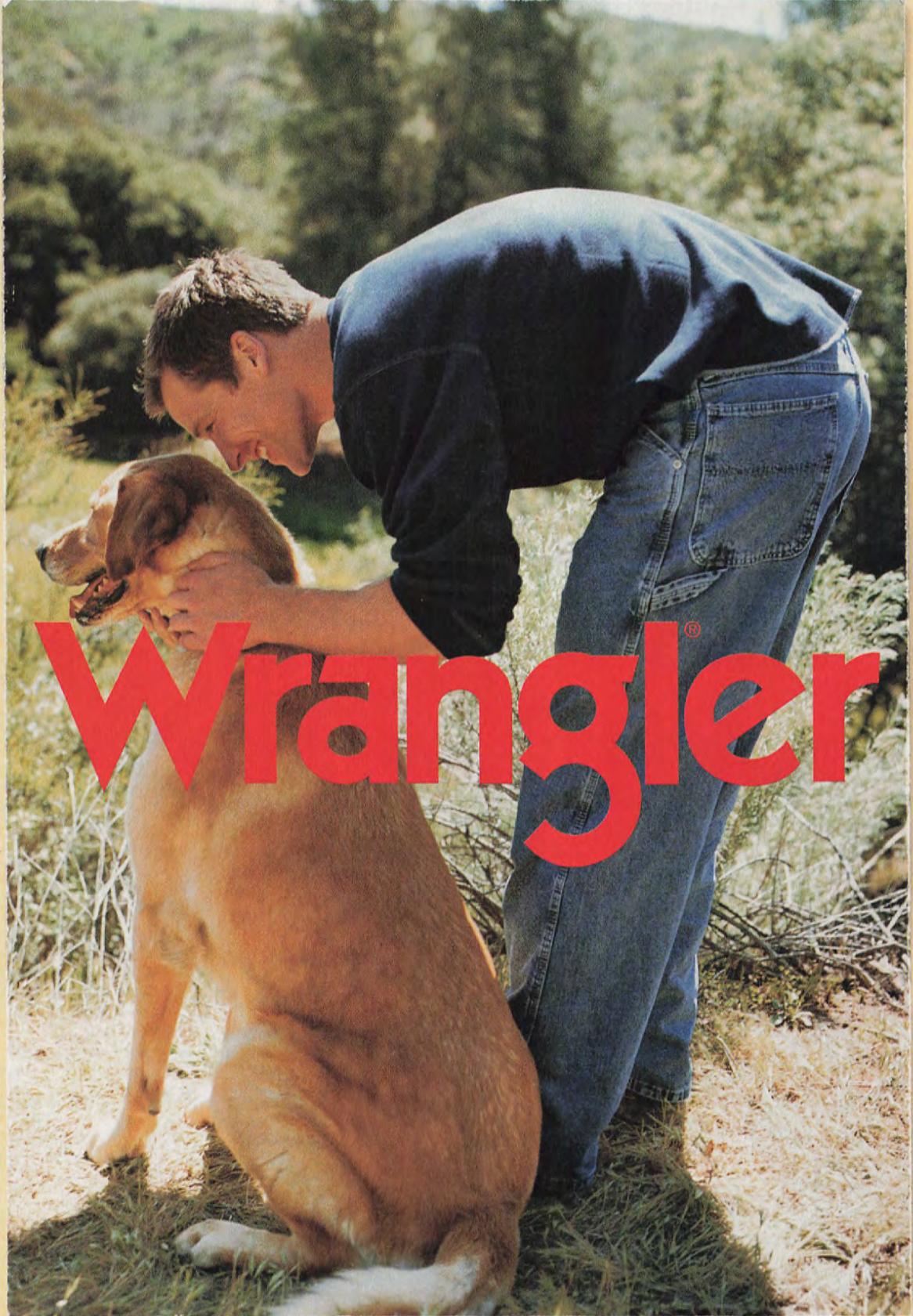
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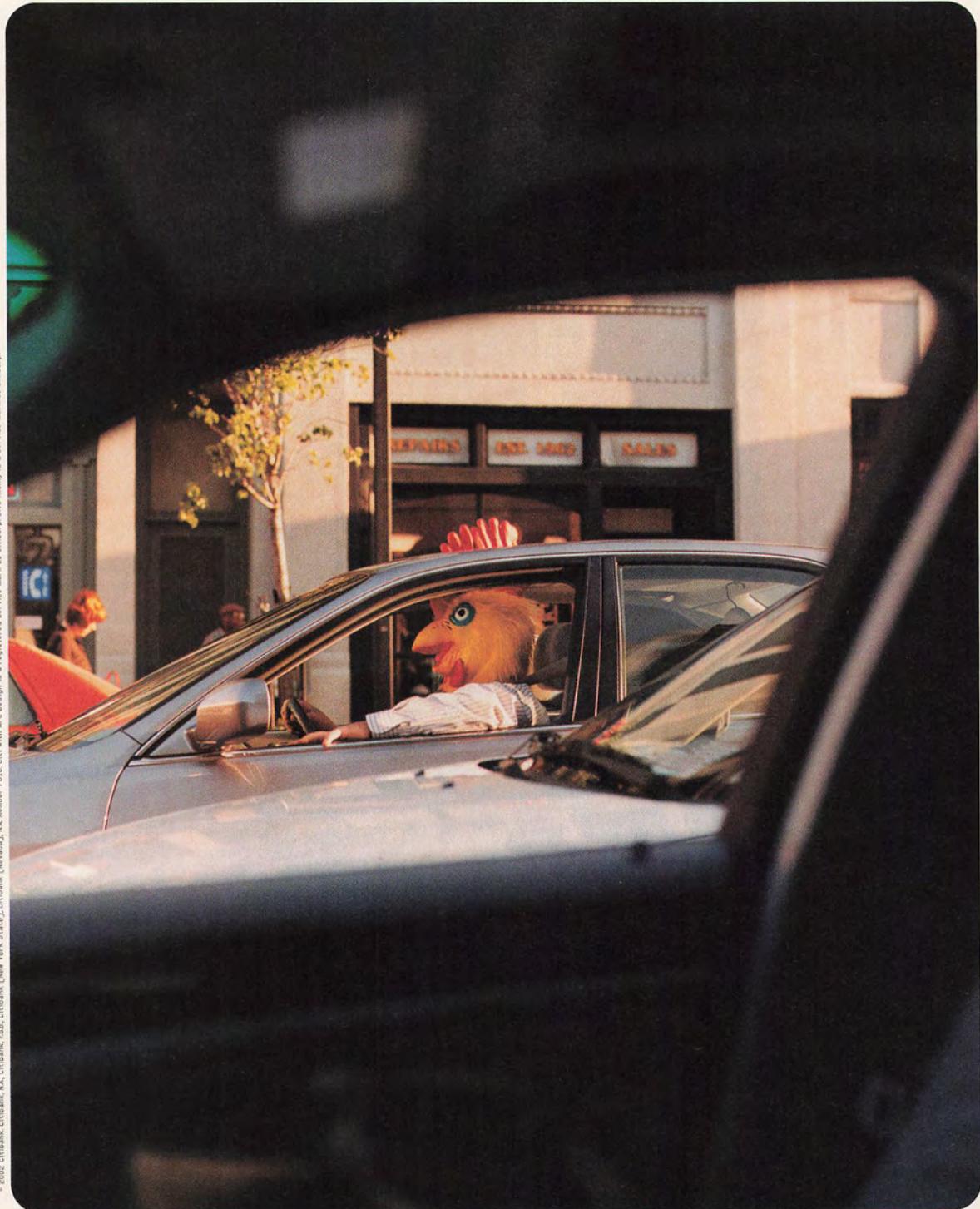
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COVER

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL J. LEBRECHT II

cnnsi.com

SI's Kelley King tackles several tough topics with our cover subject, Oklahoma DT Tommie Harris. Catch that Q&A and more at cnnsi.com/football/collage.

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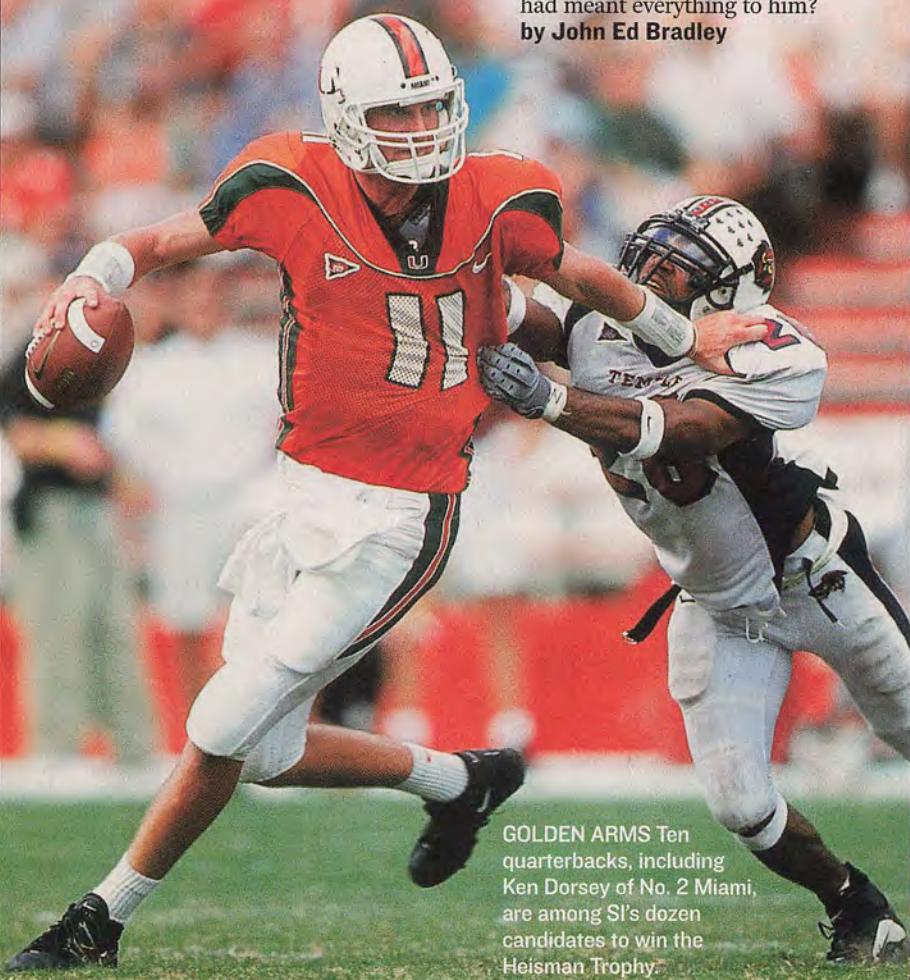
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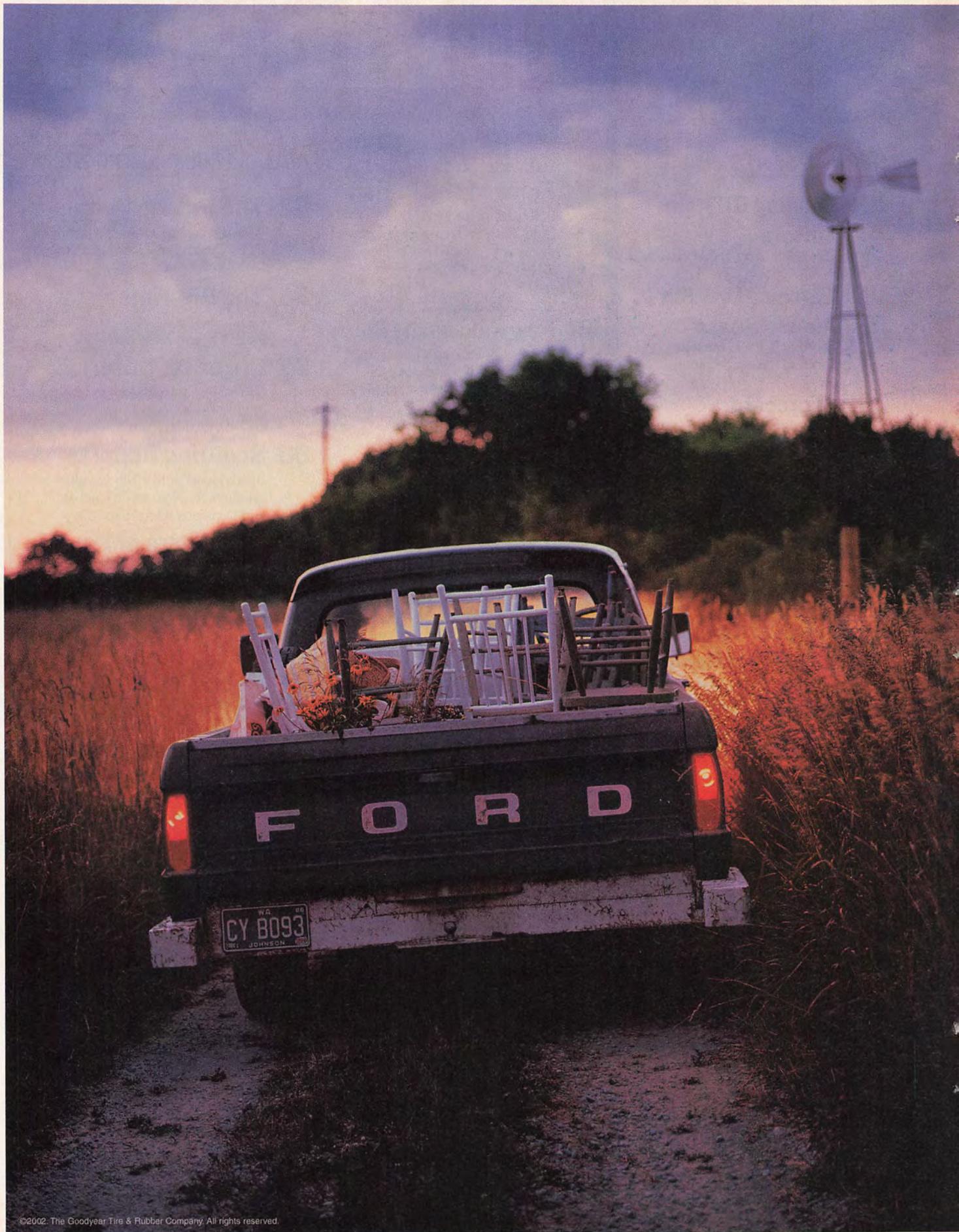
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GOLDEN ARMS Ten quarterbacks, including Ken Dorsey of No. 2 Miami, are among SI's dozen candidates to win the Heisman Trophy.



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GOOD YEAR



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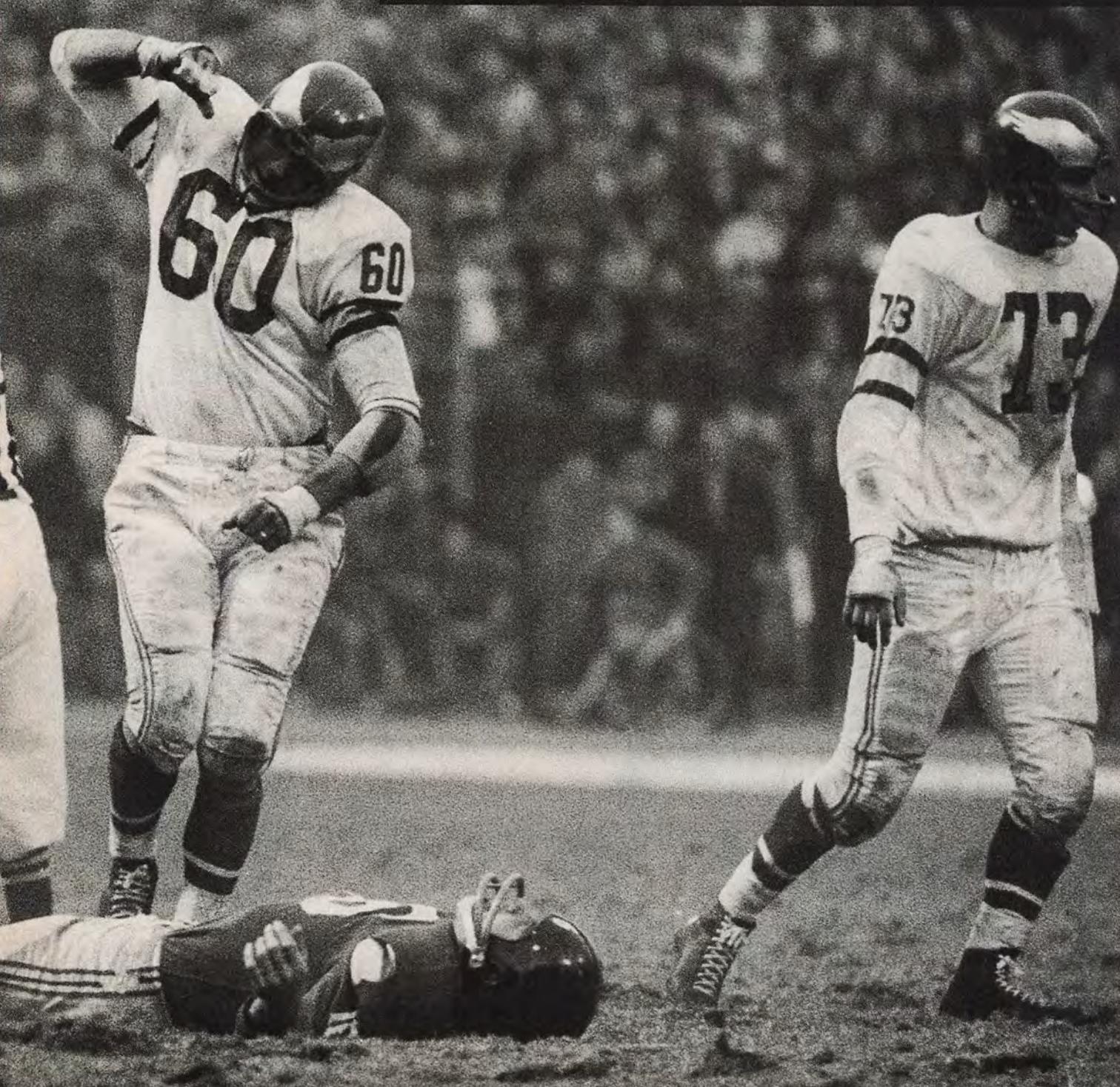
Leading Off





John G. Zimmerman 1927-2002

John Zimmerman, who died last Saturday of lymphoma in Monterey, Calif., shot 107 covers for SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, including five swimsuit issues. Noted for his technical wizardry, Zimmerman also took brilliant action photos. To wit: this unforgettable image of Chuck Bednarik after his epic hit on Frank Gifford at Yankee Stadium in 1960. Even now Gifford finds Zimmerman's shot almost as chilling as Bednarik's.



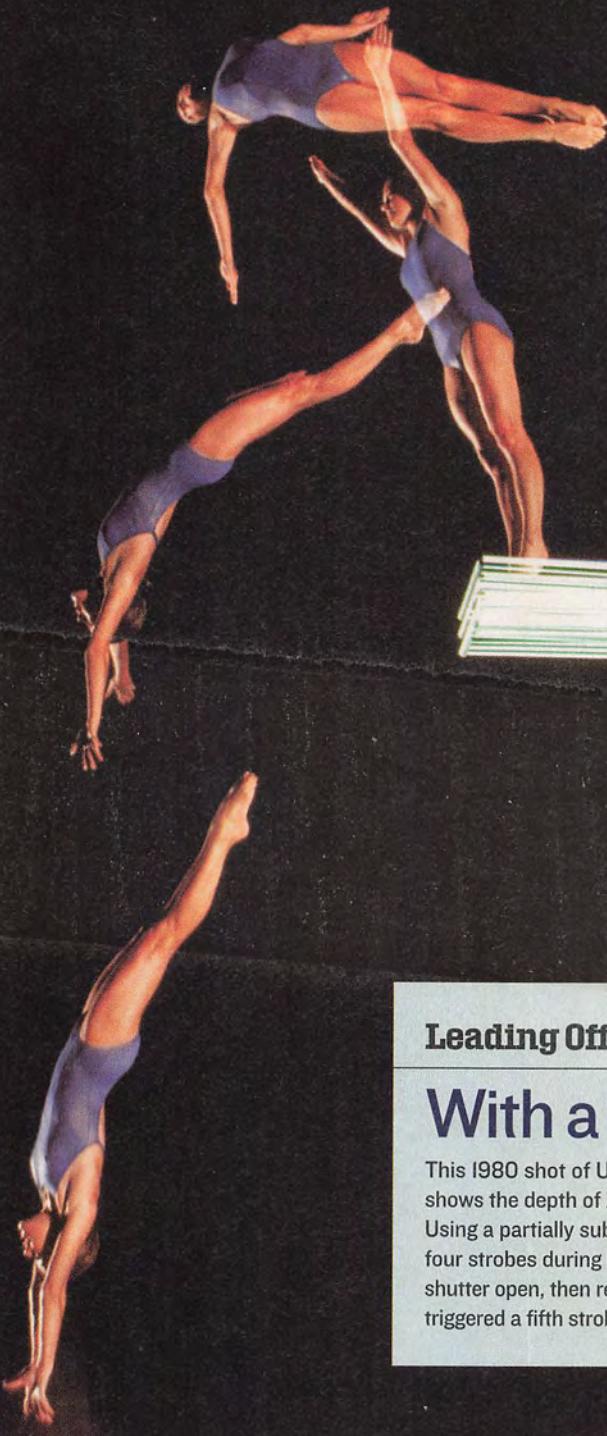


Leading Off

Flash Forward

Photographers made do with arena lighting until Zimmerman began rigging his own strobes overhead to illuminate the action. That technique enabled him to create this 1956 tableau of Canadiens goalie Jacques Plante and the Rangers' fans at Madison Square Garden.

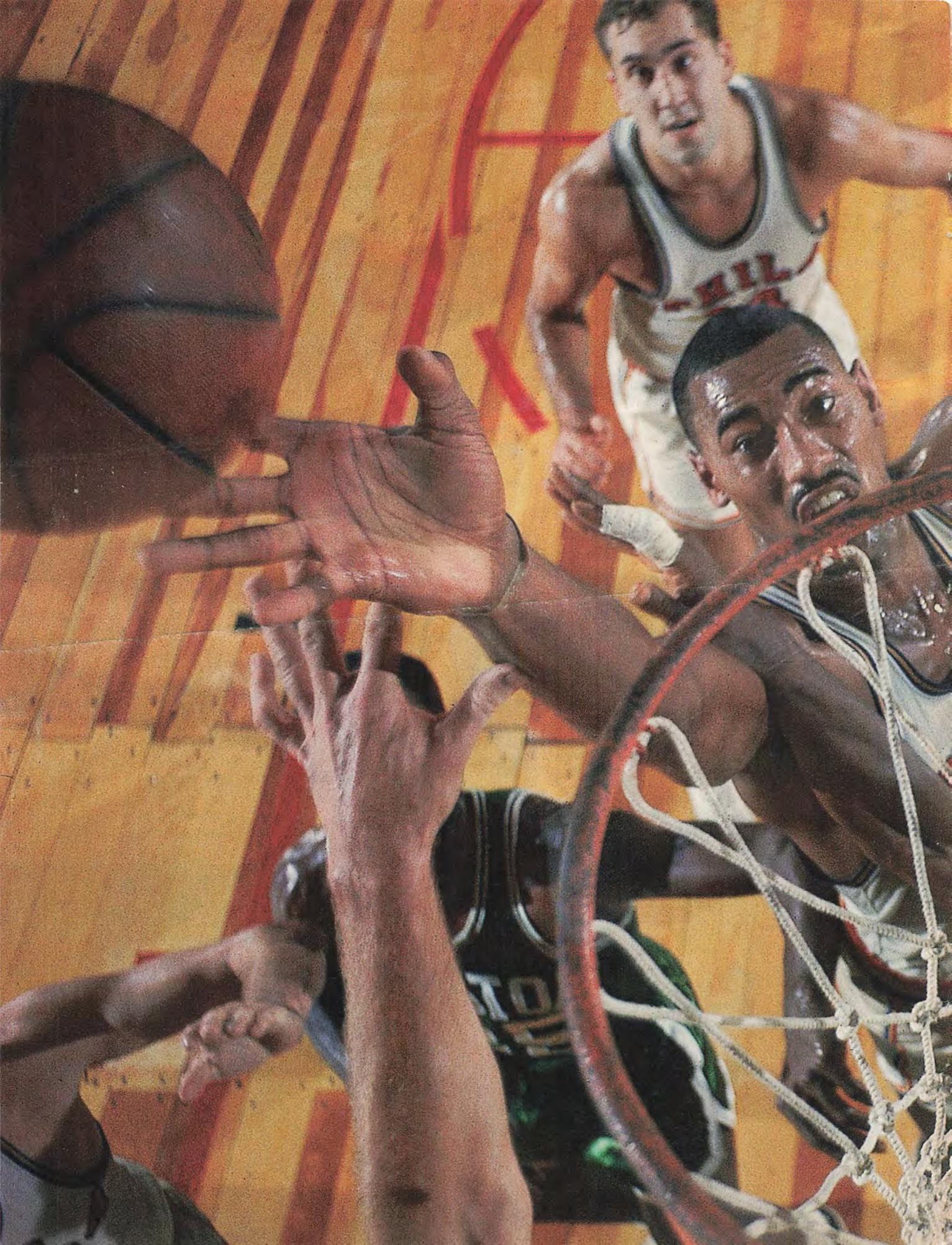


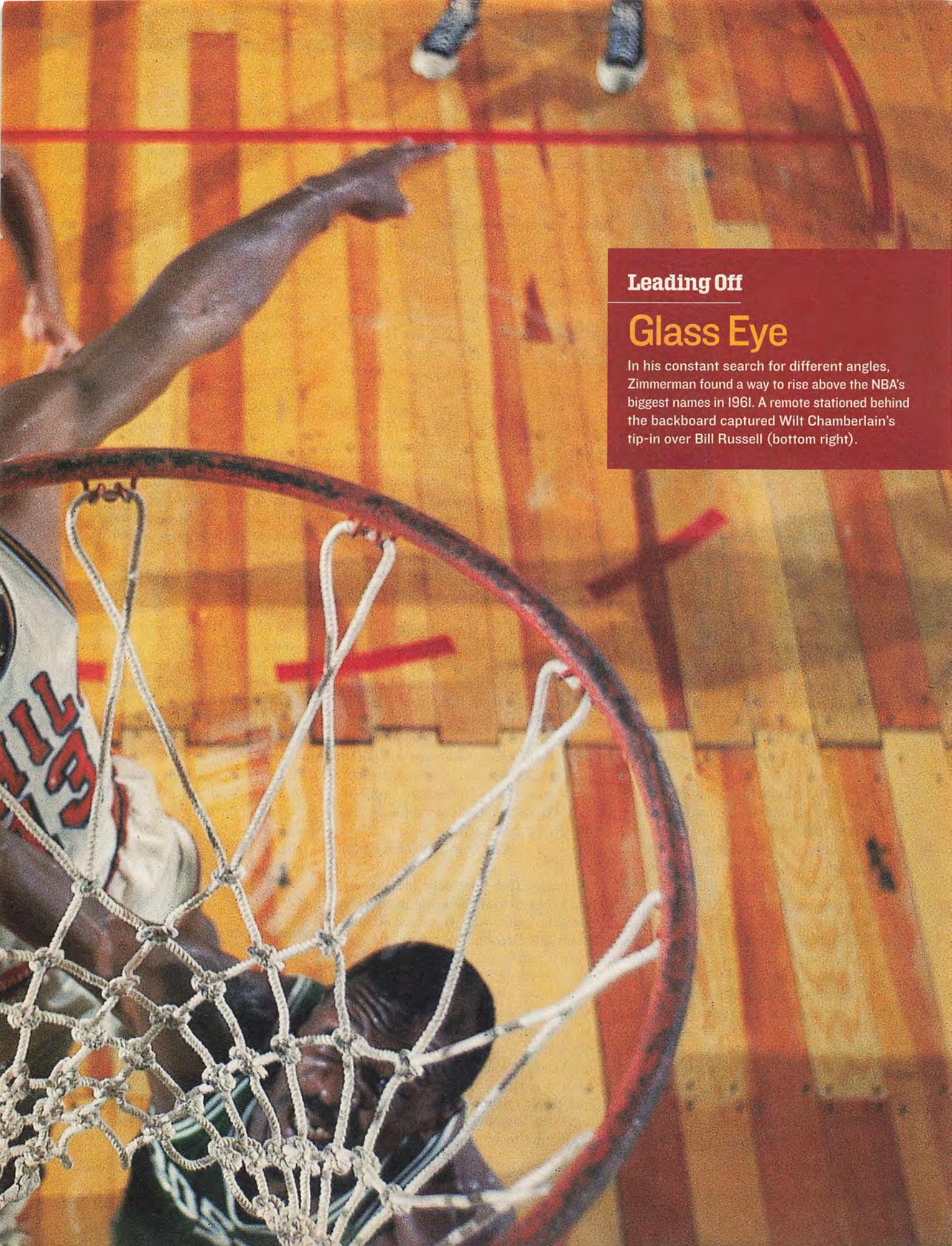


Leading Off

With a Twist

This 1980 shot of U.S. diver Jenni Chandler shows the depth of Zimmerman's inventiveness. Using a partially submerged camera, he fired four strobes during her dive while leaving the shutter open, then refocused after her entry and triggered a fifth strobe for the underwater image.





Leading Off

Glass Eye

In his constant search for different angles, Zimmerman found a way to rise above the NBA's biggest names in 1961. A remote stationed behind the backboard captured Wilt Chamberlain's tip-in over Bill Russell (bottom right).

Goodbye, Ted

I am not a Red Sox fan, I have never been to Fenway, and I am too young to have seen Ted Williams play. I live in Phoenix, where it was 114° as I pulled the latest issue of SI out of my mailbox (*Farewell, Teddy Ballgame*, July 15–22). I instantly got full-body chills from the best cover I have seen in 26 years of reading your magazine. The man was the essence of sport.

Steve Sasman, Phoenix

I looked hard at the cover photo of Ted Williams and couldn't see a single steroid-enhanced muscle. Maybe they were hiding under all that talent.

Rodney A. Wallace
Denver

As a young boy I saw Ted Williams play whenever the Bosox visited Yankee Stadium. My dad passed along his love of baseball to me. I have passed the love of the game to my eight-year-old daughter. When I showed her the cover, without missing a beat, she said, "The Splendid Splinter," and flipped the magazine open to read Leigh Montville's article. It brought tears to my eyes.

Eric K. Schwartz, Oakland

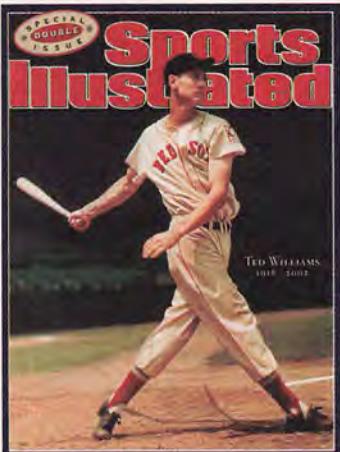
Slightly Flawed

The 1972 Dolphins (*Nobody's Perfect / Except Us*, July 15–22) might get the recognition they feel they deserve if they weren't so arrogant and bitter. If they would look at the picture of Ted Williams talking to Don Mattingly and Wade Boggs (LEADING OFF) in the same issue, they'd see that the correct way to deal with and get respect from the next generation of players is to root for them and not celebrate their failures.

David Solomon, East Brunswick, N.J.

Despite the deaths of Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau, there still is hope for the making of *Grumpy Old Men III*. It would star Bob Kuechenberg, Jim Mandich and Don Shula.

Rick Arnold, Chesterfield, Mo.

**Perfect, Too**

While it is true the 1972 Dolphins are the only undefeated team in NFL history, they are not the only undefeated team in pro football history. The '48 Cleveland Browns went 15–0—including a 49–7 pasting of Buffalo in the championship game of the All-America Football Conference. During the four years of the AAFC's existence, the Browns went 52–4–3 and won four championships, then joined the NFL in '50, going 10–2 and beating the Los Angeles Rams 30–28 in the NFL title game. Unlike when the AFL merged with the NFL, the AAFC's statistics did not carry over into the expanded league, and many talented teams and players are not recognized for their accomplishments.

Ken Simmers Jr.
Lima, Ohio

The Story of O

In 1992, when we were expecting our first child, my husband and I agreed he would name the boys and I would name the girls. Ten years and four daughters later, I now understand, thanks to Jack McCallum's excellent story on Oscar Robertson (*King Without a Castle*, July 15–22), why my husband favored the name Oscar Robertson Lepp. It would have been an honor to have a son named for the Big O.

Kate Lepp, Los Gatos, Calif.

You stated that Robertson "desperately wanted to go to Indiana, but in his only meeting with the Hoosiers' coach, Branch McCracken, he sensed that he wasn't much wanted because of his color." It would have been interesting to learn how that "sense" originated. McCracken broke the Big Ten color line in 1948 while Robertson was in elementary school. In a recent documentary on McCracken, Walt Bellamy praises his former coach by saying, "Coach McCracken did not teach me to be a success in basketball; Coach McCracken taught me to be a success in life." It

would seem that Bellamy, a teammate of Robertson's on the '60 Olympic Team, never got the "sense" he was not wanted in the IU program because of his color.

Todd German, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Mettle Detector

Look around your house. Find your most valuable possession. Sell it for top dollar and give all the money to the charity of your choice. Now imagine that you have parted with the most prestigious individual award in sports (Heisman Trophy) and your donation was a quarter million dollars. For Paul Hornung (*Still Golden*, July 15–22) to have done that makes him not just the Golden Boy, but a golden man.

William J. Farley Jr., Brielle, N.J.

It could be that Paul Hornung sometimes kept his Heisman Trophy in the garage instead of in a place of honor in his home because he knew that absent racism, Jim Brown would have been selected for the 1956 award.

Stephen Matlow, Livingston, Mont.

Hot Air

In the July 15–22 SCORECARD, golfer Stuart Appleby calls solo ballooning around the world "a hobby taken to an extravagant, multimillion-dollar level." That sounds a lot like the PGA Tour.

Natan Milgrom, Beachwood, Ohio

Tricky Stick

The official master of the hidden ball trick (SCORECARD, July 15–22), as outlined on the back of his 1974 Topps baseball card, was Gene Michael of the New York Yankees. From 1968 through '74, he successfully pulled the trick five times.

Andrew M. Sternheim
Berkeley Heights, N.J.

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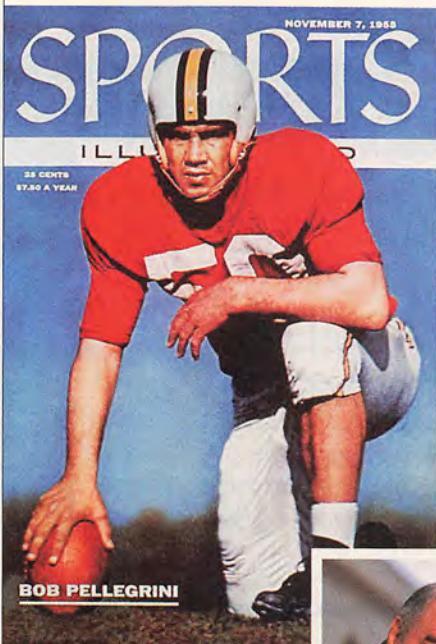
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Bob Pellegrini, Maryland Star

NOVEMBER 7, 1955



Recruited as a quarterback, Pellegrini moved to the offensive line and helped Maryland to a pair of 10-1 seasons.



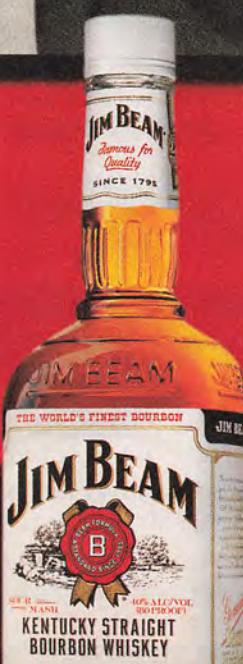
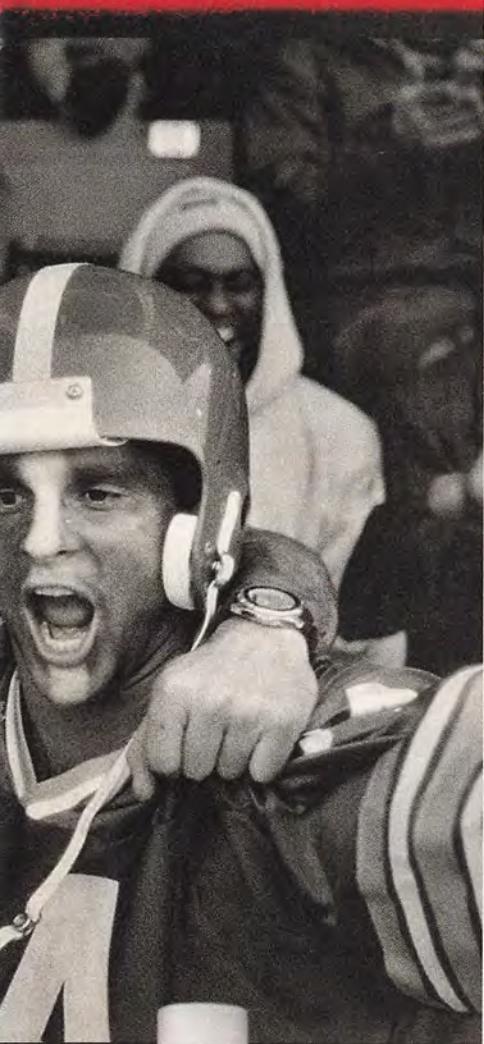
BOB PELLEGRINI needs a nine, and he needs it badly. He's standing at a craps table at the Showboat casino in Atlantic City with several hundred dollars at risk. The shooter tosses the dice and rolls a five and a four. The table goes wild, and the 67-year-old Pellegrini starts shaking hands as if he's just added a fourth grandchild. In 25 minutes the former Maryland offensive lineman and NFL linebacker turned a \$600 bankroll into \$3,910 and made a whole lot of new friends. He tips the attendants \$100 and then turns to a stranger who has been watching the action. "Take this," a smiling Pellegrini says to the man, shoving five \$20 bills into his shirt pocket. "If you don't want it, throw it in the trash."

Such behavior may seem odd, but Pellegrini has spent much of his life making people happy. At Maryland he was moved from quarterback to guard and then center and helped the Terps to two 10-1 seasons. As a 6'3", 225-pound senior he was an All-America center and made SI's cover as part

of a story on the nation's best linemen. His nine years with the Philadelphia Eagles and the Washington Redskins brought out the scrappy coal miner's son in him; he became known more for his fighting than for his blocking. "I decked Big Daddy Lipscomb," he says of the great 6'6", 300-pound defensive tackle. "He was afraid of my ass."

The father of three then spent over a decade doing everything from owning an Italian restaurant in Williamsport, Pa., to selling nonalcoholic beer in Saudi Arabia. A dinner with former big leaguer Al Rosen, who was working at an Atlantic City casino, led to Pellegrini's becoming an executive host at some of that city's top casinos. Until retiring in June, he spent 23 years working days and nights to entice high rollers to stay and gamble at his bosses' casinos. He attended to their every need, from hiring limos to babysitting their kids. He was so good that in 1986 casino moguls Donald Trump and Steve Wynn got into a bidding war for his services. It was a Wynn-win situation: Steve got his man, and Pellegrini got \$250,000 a year, double what he had been making.

Pellegrini now lives in Ocean City, N.J., with his wife, Dolly. He retired in part because the long hours were taking a toll. (He had a heart attack in 1986 and a quadruple bypass in '98.) "I caused a lot of my health problems by working too hard," he says. "Maybe I could've done it another way, but that's what I knew." —Gene Menez



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True Grid



by Steve Rushin

BASEBALL LIKES euphemism. And so the game is again enduring "labor difficulties" (in the way that Mrs. Powell, when giving birth to Boog, endured "labor difficulties") and may soon weather a prolonged "work stoppage" (much as Ted Williams is now weathering, in the Arizona desert, a prolonged "life stoppage"). But who cares?

For football has returned, as it does every August, to knock the books from baseball's arms, steal its lunch money and leave the sport suspended in obscurity—hanging, by its Hanes, from a hook in a locker.

NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue was greeted last week in Tokyo by Japanese prime minister Junichiro Koizumi, who seemed to regard him as an equal. Baseball commissioner Bud Selig is greeted every lunchtime in Milwaukee by counter personnel at Gilles Frozen Custard stand, who seem to regard *him* as an equal. The NFL is Paris. Baseball is Paris, Texas.

The pre-preseason scrimmage between the Houston Texans and the Dallas Cowboys last Friday night drew 27,536 fans. That same night the midseason game between the Florida Marlins and Milwaukee Brewers drew 5,167 spectators. But then football plays only one game in a six-month stretch that nobody cares about: its all-star game. Baseball plays but one game in a six-month stretch that everybody cares about: its All-Star Game. Naturally, *baseball's* the one that's curtailed to avoid player injuries.

What do you expect? Football is in the hands of men like Dan Rooney. The Pittsburgh Steelers president last week was soloing his Beechcraft Bonanza when the electricity went out, his cell phone died after a few calls (including one to 911), and his landing gear failed to fully deploy, leaving the 70-year-old father of nine to belly-land his plane, in the manner of Pete Rose, in a strip of grass at Allegheny County Airport, where he strode away unscathed from the wrecked fuselage, only to fly again the next morning.

Baseball is in the hands of men like Jim Bowden, the Cincinnati Reds' general manager, who last week likened union president Don Fehr to the Sept. 11 hijackers.

To say that football has displaced baseball as the national pastime, then, is laughably inadequate, like saying that TV has now edged quilting as a popular diversion.

The best player in football, Marshall Faulk, last month signed a contract extension worth just more than \$6 million a year, or

roughly the salary of Yankees pitcher Sterling Hitchcock, who at week's end had thrown 24% innings this season.

Baseball is said to be beautiful because it doesn't have a clock. But it could use a wristwatch with a calendar function. The NFL will begin its season on Sept. 5 with Bon Jovi performing live in Times Square while a giant football drops amid a throng, as if it's New Year's Eve. Baseball began its season with Dick Cheney throwing a circle change to Texas Rangers backup catcher Bill Haselman, as if it were also New Year's Eve and the year in question was 1943.

Autumn is now the season of renewal, when life begins. Hope falls eternal. After all, there are at least 14 bona fide Super Bowl contenders this season. In baseball, it's barely conceivable that the Arizona Diamondbacks, Atlanta Braves or Yankees will not win the World Series—and any minimal doubt arises only because there may not be a World Series.

Baseball has tried to appeal to younger fans with an ad campaign of testimonials from Kelly Ripa and Carson Daly. Football this season will appeal to younger fans by actually *appealing to younger fans*. The Dallas Cowboys have their own series on HBO,

home of *The Sopranos* and *Sex and the City*. Baseball has Mel Allen dispensing weekly notes from beyond the grave on ESPN Classic—an estimable pleasure, but one that is, demographically speaking, more Preparation H than Generation Y.

Football has a hard cap. In baseball, only John Olerud does. Football has revenue sharing. Baseball's is nominal. Football has tackled its problems head-on.

Baseball pussyfoots around them, the very definition of a baseball fight. Last week five players on the Boston Red Sox and the Baltimore Orioles were suspended for a bench-clearing brawl involving 48 men in which (miraculously!) not one of them was even slightly injured. Meanwhile, in the Kansas City Chiefs' *training camp*, offensive tackle John Tait punched defensive tackle Eddie Freeman, who then split Tait's face open with his (Tait's) own helmet. Afterward Tait said, "I don't want Eddie to suffer," and Freeman agreed that his resultant fine was "more than fair." Barry Bonds and Jeff Kent, Roger Clemens and Mike Piazza—men who've been swinging their handbags at one another for years—might benefit from such do-it-yourself conflict mediation.

When it comes to image, football's is eye black, baseball's a black eye. On the surface the two sports have much in common—armored men with Popeye arms playing games that end 17–10. But one's thriving and one's dying. One's cool and one's not. It's the difference between John Wayne and John Wayne Bobbitt. □

Football has returned, as it does every August, to knock the books from baseball's arms and steal its lunch money.

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Goldfellas

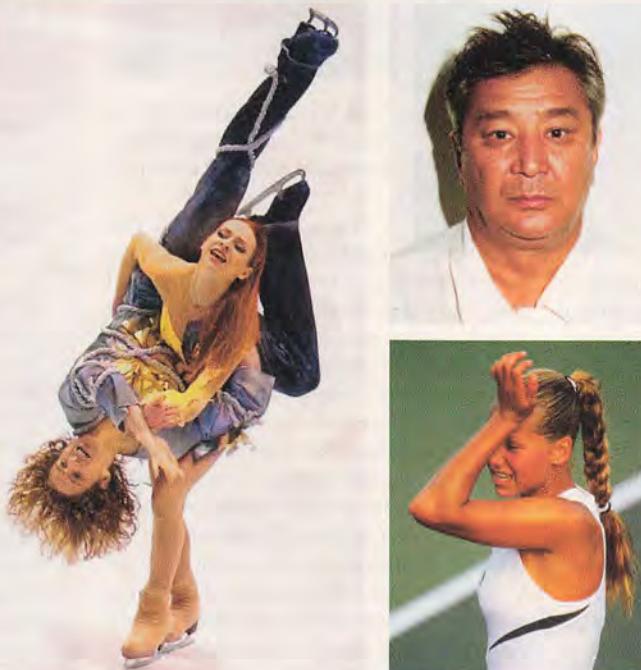
An alleged fix at Salt Lake is the latest link between organized crime and Russian athletes

THE REACTION of IOC chief Dr. Jacques Rogge, who described himself as "shocked" at last week's news that an alleged Russian mobster, Alimzhan Tokhtakhounov, 53, had been arrested in Italy for conspiring to fix both the pairs and the ice dancing results in the Salt Lake City Games, called to mind a scene from *Casablanca*. French police captain Louis Renault, collecting his winnings as he shuts down Rick's Cafe under orders from the occupying Germans, loudly proclaims, "I am shocked! Shocked to find that gambling's going on in here!"

Racketeering? In Russian sports? What would have been truly shocking is if the Russian mafia had not been involved in what has for months been widely, if not officially, viewed as a fix. Anyone with even a cursory sense of sports in Russia knows that organized crime has spread its tentacles around the highest levels of sport, insinuating itself into the lives—and deaths—of numerous high-income, high-profile athletes and officials.

In this case Italian authorities say that as many as six skating judges may have been contacted before the Games by Tokhtakhounov, a man described by the FBI as being "a major figure in international Eurasian organized crime." His motive: backdoor help in getting a French visa.

In early February wiretaps captured Tokhtakhounov talking to the mother of French ice dancer Mari-



THE INSIDER Tokhtakhounov (top), who had talks with ice queen Anissina (left), also knows tennis stars such as Kournikova.

na Anissina, who is Russian-born. "Even if she falls, we will make sure she is Number 1," Tokhtakhounov said. In a taped conversation after the Olympics, Anissina acknowledged his help, while opining that she and partner Gwendal Peizerat would have won gold anyway.

Tokhtakhounov, alleged by the FBI to be involved in distributing drugs, selling illegal arms and trafficking in stolen vehicles, has an interesting Rolodex. Tennis pros Andrei Medvedev, Yevgeny Kafel-

nikov and Marat Safin have all been photographed with him. (Last week Kafelnikov called Tokhtakhounov "a good friend.") Anna Kournikova acknowledges that she knows him. Among the guests at a ceremony in Paris in 1999 honoring Tokhtakhounov for philanthropy was Russian hockey star Pavel Bure. Marina Anissina was there too.

Small (under)world.

Mob ties have been alleged or suspected in connection with the deaths of several sports figures who,

apparently, were not cooperating. To name just a few, the president of the Russian Hockey Federation, Valentin Sych, was murdered gangland style in April 1997 in Russia; later that year the director general of Spartak Moscow's soccer club, Larissa Nekhayeva, was assassinated at her home near Moscow; and last December figure skater Kira Ivanova, a 1984 bronze medalist, was mysteriously murdered in her Moscow apartment.

NHL stars from Russia have long been subjected to extortion attempts, though few will talk about it. In January 1996 defenseman Oleg Tverdovsky's mother was kidnapped by conspirators who demanded ransom and protection money. (Tverdovsky refused to pay, and his mother was released unharmed.) In '94 a Russian gangster confessed to trying to extort \$150,000 from then Sabres forward Alexander Mogilny. And U.S. investigators have long suspected that Bure, Valeri Kamensky and former Red Wings star Slava Fetisov, who coached the Russian Olympic team in Salt Lake, have associates in the Russian mob.

The fixing of a figure skating competition? Small potatoes for this lot. Certainly not worthy of a reaction so vivid as shock. As Kournikova sensibly responded when asked about her relationship with Tokhtakhounov last week in San Diego, "I don't think I should be talking about this. I'm Russian. I have to go back there." —E.M. Swift

One Well-Paid Groom

Star trainer Bob Baffert gets hitched—and enriched—over the weekend

Bob Baffert isn't hard to pick out of a crowd, and as he arrived at his box at Monmouth Park on Sunday, shortly before his superstar colt, War Emblem, romped to victory in the \$1 million Haskell Invitational, many of the 45,212 fans turned and cheered. When the trainer and his bride of 24 hours, Jill Moss, raised their hands jointly in acknowledgment—just call them the Juan and Evita of the horsey set—the cheers rose to a powerful roar. "He's a star, and the horse is a star," said George Zoffinger, the president of the New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority. "Anybody who doesn't think we did the right thing by bringing this horse here is nuts."

Zoffinger was referring to the controversy that erupted over the news that the NJSEA was paying Baffert a \$50,000 appearance fee to bring War Emblem to the Haskell. Appearance fees are almost unheard of in racing, though Baffert claims they are offered to him regularly. This large sum is a testimony not only to the prestige of War Emblem, the Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner, but also to Baffert's celebrity power. "I've turned down a lot of deals where I didn't go because the horse wasn't right," says Baffert. "Nobody works harder to promote racing than me, and if somebody wants to pay me for it, I'm going to take it." (He did, however, donate half his fee to the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation in the name of War Emblem's owner, Prince Ahmed bin Salman, who died on July 22.)



THE BRIDLE PATH Baffert found the winner's circle with Moss and with War Emblem.

A little extra dough, and War Emblem's wire-to-wire, 3½-length victory, is nothing unusual for Hollywood Bob, whose horses had won 80 races and more than \$7 million this year; that wasn't even the best day of the weekend for him. On Saturday, at the Hotel Del Coronado outside San Diego, Baffert and Moss were married before more than 250 guests as well as a handful of paparazzi. "When was the last time a trainer's marriage was covered in the papers?" wondered one veteran turf writer. Is Baffert a star without his horses? Of course not, but that hardly mattered to Zoffinger. "Look at this," he said, gesturing to the second-largest crowd in the track's 132-year history. "Having him here is good for the sport, and it's good for us."

—Mark Beech

CAREER MOVES

A BLIND BROADCASTER EYES THE MAJORS



UNBLINKING Wardlow (left) and Lucas are direct about the former's blindness.

When Don Wardlow and Jim Lucas got their first pro broadcasting gig, with the Class A Miami Miracle in 1991, they were content to be regarded as a novelty act. Wardlow, blind since birth, just wanted the chance to analyze baseball on the radio. Now, some 1,500 games later, they're one of the sharpest broadcast teams in the minors and close to a major league call-up. They were among five finalists for an Anaheim Angels radio job before this season and are now being looked at by the Detroit Tigers, who must replace retiring Ernie Harwell. "They will get serious consideration,"

says Tigers VP of marketing Mike Veeck.

Wardlow scores games on a Braille typewriter while Lucas provides exceptionally rich detail—even down to the color of batting gloves. They don't try to hide Wardlow's handicap. "I used to think McDonald's served six french fries in each bag," Wardlow has complained to Lucas on the air, "then I found out you were stealing the rest." Says Angels VP of communications Tim Mead, "They're unique because of their partnership and their passion. I still have their tapes. We'd have no problem giving them another look in the future."

GO FIGURE

\$1,639.20 Payoff to former NFL quarterback Ryan Leaf on the winning \$3 trifecta ticket he placed at Del Mar Race Track outside San Diego, two days after he'd announced his retirement.

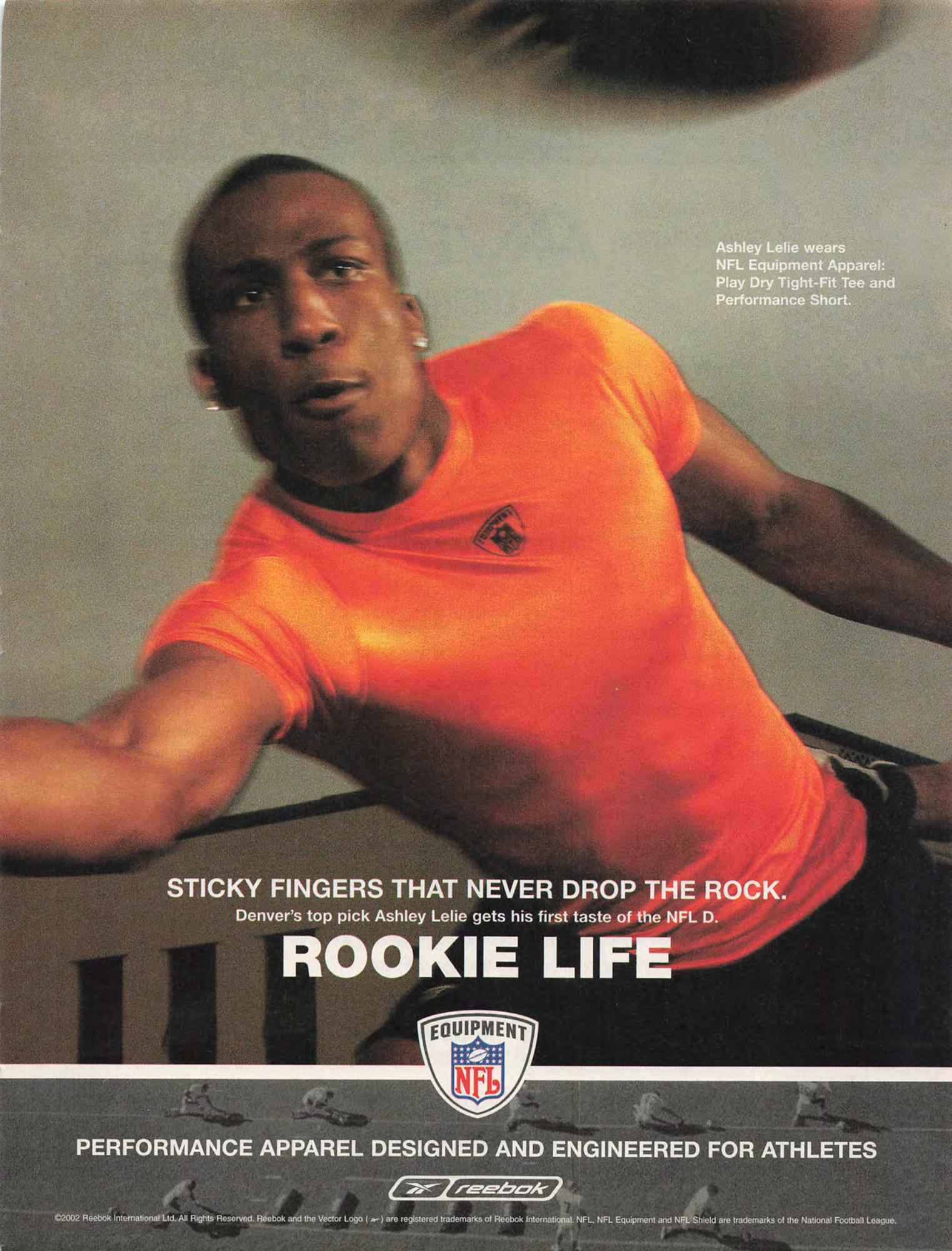
17 Stitches that Chiefs offensive tackle John Tait needed after sustaining a broken nose during a training-camp fight with Eddie Freeman, a rookie defensive tackle.

1 Times that the son of an NBA coach has also been hired as a head coach in the league, now that the Warriors have brought in Eric Musselman, son of former Cavaliers coach Bill Musselman.

\$8,995,000 Asking price for Drew Bledsoe's Medfield, Mass., mansion, an 11,000-square-foot, 20-room home that includes a theater, wine cellar and spa.

9 Teams (Giants, Phillies, Yankees, Mariners, Cubs, Braves, Pirates, Dodgers and Indians) that have employed pitcher Terry Mulholland, the 39-year-old lefty who was traded from L.A. to Cleveland on July 28.

4.29 Seconds in which 6-foot, 242-pound Seahawks linebacker Anthony Simmons runs the 40-yard dash, a drop of .17 after a summer of speed training in preparation for facing running back Marshall Faulk, whose Rams are now in the same division as Seattle.



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Denver's top pick Ashley Lelie gets his first taste of the NFL D.

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SB

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"Every big hug makes me glad I take care of my diabetes."

"My granddaughter sure knows how to make my day. Her face lights up when she sees me. Then, she dishes out those hugs—and *that's* what really makes me want to take care of my diabetes.

"I've got my routine down: I stay active, and try my best to eat healthier meals. To help me stay on track, my doctor added *Avandia*. It makes my body more responsive to its own natural insulin, so I can control my blood sugar more effectively.

"I started on *Avandia* over a year ago. And while not everyone gets the same results, my blood sugar has never been better. I know *Avandia* is helping me to be stronger than diabetes. That's something I can really wrap my arms around."

Avandia, along with diet and exercise, helps improve blood sugar control. It may be prescribed alone, with Glucophage® (metformin HCl tablets) or with sulfonylureas. When taking *Avandia* with a sulfonylurea, you may be at risk for low blood sugar. Ask your doctor whether you need to lower your sulfonylurea dosage.

Some people may experience tiredness, weight gain or swelling with *Avandia*.

Avandia in combination with insulin may increase the risk of serious heart problems. Because of this, talk to your doctor before using *Avandia* and insulin together. *Avandia* may cause fluid retention, or swelling, which could lead to or worsen heart failure, so tell your doctor if you have a history of these conditions. If you experience an unusually rapid increase in weight, swelling or shortness of breath while taking *Avandia*, talk to your doctor immediately. *Avandia* is not for everyone. If you have severe heart failure or active liver disease, *Avandia* is not recommended.

Also, blood tests to check for serious liver problems should be conducted before and during *Avandia* therapy. Tell your doctor if you have liver disease, or if you experience unexplained tiredness, stomach problems, dark urine or yellowing of the skin while taking *Avandia*.

If you are nursing, pregnant or thinking about becoming pregnant, or if you are a premenopausal woman who is not ovulating, talk to your doctor before taking *Avandia*.

See important patient information on the adjacent page.

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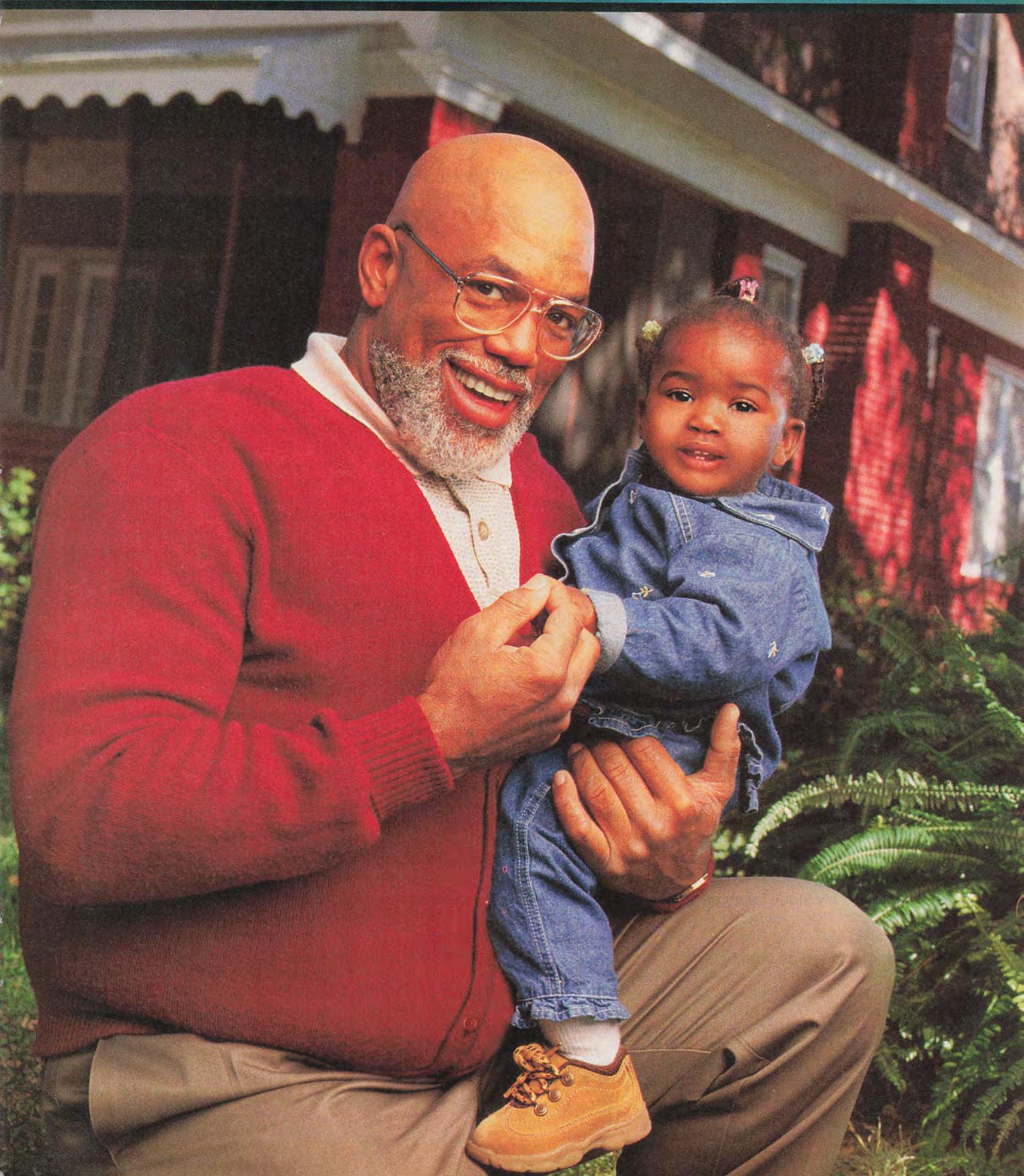


Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

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than diabetes.[®]



Patient Information about AVANDIA® (rosiglitazone maleate) 2 mg, 4 mg, and 8 mg Tablets

What is Avandia?

Avandia is one product in a class of prescription drugs called thiazolidinediones (thigh-a-zol-a-deen-die-owns) or TZDs. It is used to treat type 2 diabetes by helping the body use the insulin that it is already making. Avandia comes as pills that can be taken either once a day or twice a day to help improve blood sugar levels.

How does Avandia treat type 2 diabetes?

If you have type 2 diabetes, your body probably still produces insulin but it is not able to use the insulin efficiently. Insulin is needed to allow sugar to be carried from the bloodstream into many cells of the body for energy. If insulin is not being used correctly, sugar does not enter the cells very well and builds up in the blood. If not controlled, the high blood sugar level can lead to serious medical problems, including kidney damage, blindness and amputation. Avandia helps your body use insulin by making the cells more sensitive to insulin so that the sugar can enter the cell.

How quickly will Avandia begin to work?

Avandia begins to reduce blood sugar levels within 2 weeks. However, since Avandia works to address an important underlying cause of type 2 diabetes, insulin resistance, it may take 8 to 12 weeks to see the full effect. If you do not respond adequately to your starting dose of Avandia, your physician may increase your daily dose to improve your blood sugar control.

How should I take Avandia?

Your doctor may tell you to take Avandia once a day or twice a day (in the morning and evening). It can be taken with or without meals. Food does not affect how Avandia works. To help you remember to take Avandia, you may want to take it at the same time every day.

What if I miss a dose?

If your doctor has prescribed Avandia for use once a day:

- As soon as you remember your missed dose, take one tablet anytime during the day.
- If you forget and go a whole day without taking a dose, don't try to make it up by adding another dose on the following day. Forget about the missed dose and simply follow your normal schedule.

If your doctor has prescribed Avandia for use twice a day:

- As soon as you remember the missed dose, take one tablet.
- Take the next dose at the normal time on the same day.
- Don't try to make up a missed dose from the day before.
- You should never take three doses on any single day in order to make up for a missed dose the day before.

Do I need to test my blood for sugar while using Avandia?

Yes, you should follow your doctor's instructions about your at-home testing schedule.

Does Avandia cure type 2 diabetes?

Currently there is no cure for diabetes. The only way to avoid the effects of the disease is to maintain good blood sugar control by following your doctor's advice for diet, exercise, weight control, and medication. Avandia, alone or in combination with other antidiabetic drugs (i.e., sulfonylureas or metformin), may improve these other efforts by helping your body make better use of the insulin it already produces.

Can I take Avandia with other medications?

Avandia has been taken safely by people using other medications, including other antidiabetic medications, birth control pills, warfarin (a blood thinner), Zantac® (ranitidine), an antiulcer product from GlaxoSmithKline), certain heart medications, and some cholesterol-lowering products. You should discuss with your doctor the most appropriate plan for you. If you are taking prescription or over-the-counter products for your diabetes or for conditions other than diabetes, be sure to tell your doctor. Sometimes a patient who is taking two antidiabetic medications each day can become irritable, lightheaded or excessively tired. Tell your doctor if this occurs; your blood sugar levels may be dropping too low, and the dose of your medication may need to be reduced.

What should I discuss with my doctor before taking Avandia?

Avandia in combination with insulin may increase the risk of serious heart problems. Because of this, talk to your doctor before using Avandia and insulin together. Avandia may cause fluid retention or swelling which could lead to or worsen heart failure, so tell your doctor if you have a history of these conditions. You should also talk to your doctor if you have liver problems, or if you are nursing, pregnant or thinking of becoming pregnant. If you are a premenopausal woman who is not ovulating, you should know that Avandia therapy may result in the resumption of ovulation, which may increase your chances of becoming pregnant. Therefore, you may need to consider birth control options.

What are the possible side effects of Avandia?

Avandia was generally well tolerated in clinical trials. The most common side effects reported by people taking Avandia were upper respiratory infection (cold-like symptoms) and headache. As with most other diabetes medications, you may experience an increase in weight. You may also experience edema (swelling) and/or anemia (tiredness). If you experience any swelling of your extremities (e.g., legs, ankles) or tiredness, notify your doctor. Talk to your doctor immediately if you experience edema, shortness of breath, an unusually rapid increase in weight, or other symptoms of heart failure.

Who should not use Avandia?

You should not take Avandia if you are in the later stages of heart failure or if you have active liver disease. The following people should also not take Avandia: People with type 1 diabetes, people who experienced yellowing of the skin with Rezulin® (troglitazone, Parke-Davis), people who are allergic to Avandia or any of its components and people with diabetic ketoacidosis.

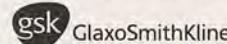
Why are laboratory tests recommended?

Your doctor may conduct blood tests to measure your blood sugar control. Blood tests to check for serious liver problems should be conducted before starting Avandia, every 2 months during the first year, and periodically thereafter.

It is important that you call your doctor immediately if you experience unexplained symptoms of nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, tiredness, anorexia, dark urine, or yellowing of the skin.

How should I store Avandia?

Avandia should be stored at room temperature in a child-proof container out of the reach of children. Store Avandia in its original container.





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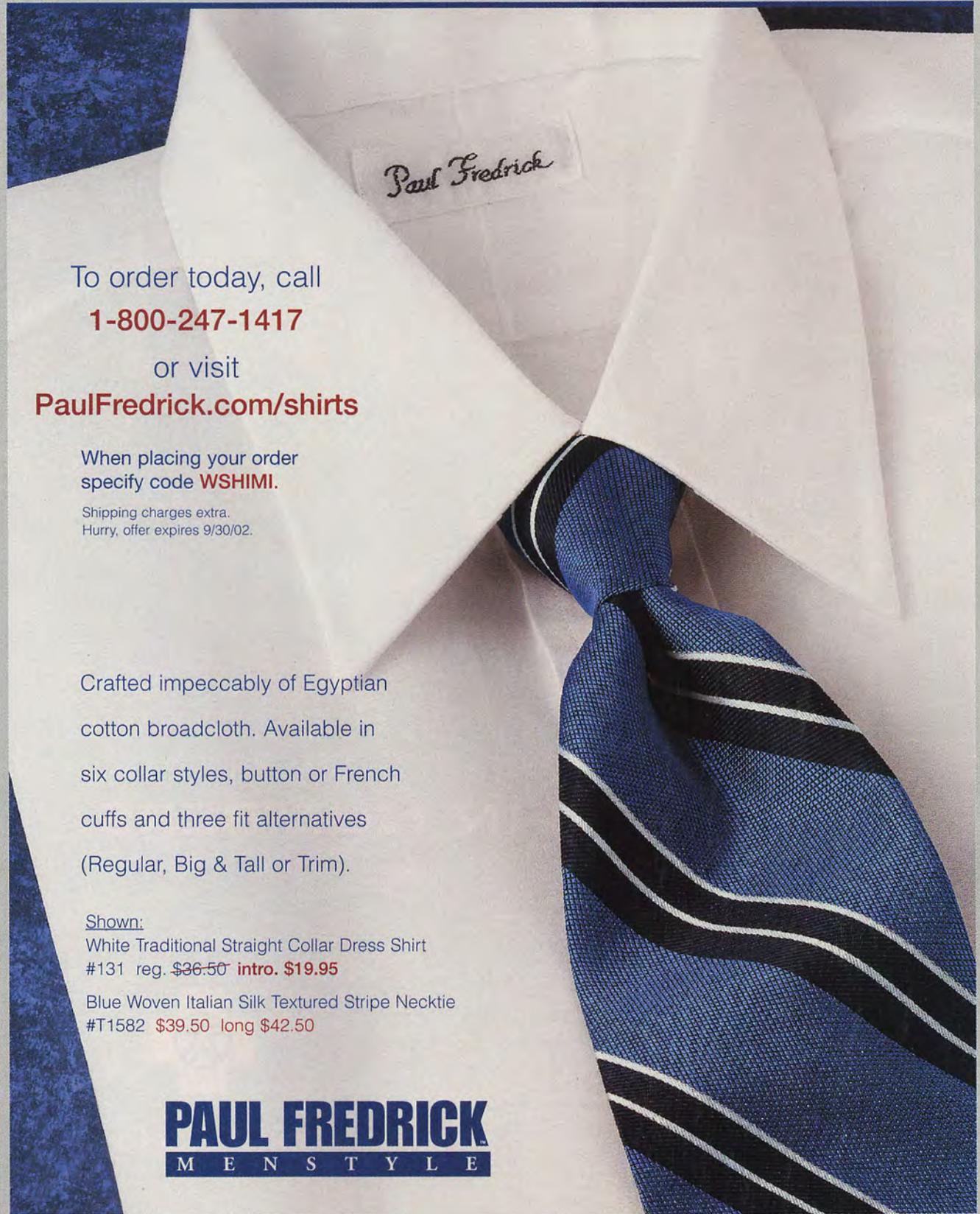


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Not-So-Little Leaguer

A year later, pitching phenom Danny Almonte owns up to his age



ALMOST FAMOUS Even big leaguers want Danny's autograph.

Saturday, after helping his Liga Paulino team go to the finals of the Under-19 Dominican League tournament in New York, the phenom came clean to SI. Almonte, who is 15, said he knew that he was 14 during the controversy but insists that he found out after the tournament had begun. "What could I do then?" he says. "I was already playing."

This summer, in a league dominated by older teens, Almonte went 2-0 with 21 strikeouts in 12½ innings and was to pitch in this week's title series. He also maintains a level of celebrity. Not long ago he was waiting to get autographs outside Shea Stadium when Astros pitcher Octavio Dotel, a Dominican, saw him and asked for his phone number. Almonte wasn't fazed; during an earlier autograph quest at Shea, Brewers righthander Nelson Figueroa spotted Almonte, went back into the locker room and came out with a ball. "Could you sign this for my sister?" he asked.

—Luis Fernando Llosa

Anyone who feared that last summer's Little League scandal (SI, Sept. 3, 2001) might do irrevocable harm to the teenager caught in its vortex can rest easy. Ace pitcher Danny Almonte—whose Rolando Paulino All-Stars had to forfeit all of their Little League Tournament games after Almonte was found to be older than the maximum age of 12—is doing fine. Living with Paulino in the Bronx (Danny's parents are in his native Dominican Republic), he's starring in a youth league, and after a year of middle school his English has progressed so much that Almonte says if he doesn't make it to the majors, he'd like to become a lawyer in the U.S.

He certainly has experience in arguing his case. Last year, when he dominated the Little League World Series, Almonte and his father, Felipe, insisted that Danny was only 12. As recently as June, Danny stuck to his story. But last

THE BLOTTER



Chick Hearn

Died After undergoing two operations for brain hemorrhaging, Lakers broadcaster Chick Hearn, 85. Hearn, the only full-time play-by-play announcer the Lakers have had since moving from Minneapolis in 1960, was hospitalized after he collapsed in his backyard on Aug. 2. His 3,338-consecutive-game broadcasting streak ended last December when he took a leave of absence to have heart surgery.

dynamite and a hand grenade buried near an Athens arena that is scheduled to be used as a venue in the 2004 Olympic Games. Police have made no arrests but say the explosives may have been buried by November 17, Greece's most dogged terrorist group.

Burned By members of the Triple A Rochester Red Wings in hopes of snapping a losing streak, a barrel of bats and batting gloves on the pitcher's mound of Rochester's Frontier Field before a July 31 game against the Ottawa Lynx. The Red Wings lost the game 4-3 and at week's end had dropped 12 straight.

Hired By Nike, for one of three basketball sports marketing summer internships, Akron sophomore Maverick Carter, the cousin and former high school teammate of LeBron James, the nation's top high school basketball player. James is expected to be the target of a major bidding war among sneaker companies should he forgo college basketball and apply for the 2003 NBA draft, as most people expect he will.

Collected By the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, surveys from 4,728 college undergraduates that asked about the relationship between sports and suicidal thoughts. The federal study found that college students who play varsity or intramural sports were between 1.6 (women) and 2.5 (men) times less likely to consider or attempt suicide.

BURNING QUESTION

WHO WAS THE FIRST MAN TO DUNK?

While the history of the dunk in women's basketball is well documented—from Georgeann Wells, the 6' 7" West Virginia center who in 1984 became the first woman to throw down in competition, to 6' 5" Lisa Leslie, whose breakaway jam on July 30 was a WNBA first—its evolution in the men's game isn't clear. Not even the research staff at the Basketball Hall of Fame is sure who made the first dunk in organized play. What is known is that the shot has been around nearly as long as the game itself (that means since the 1890s) and that in the 1940s Oklahoma A&M's 6' 10" center Bob Kurland became the first college player to regularly use the dunk. Kurland jammed and slammed the Aggies to NCAA titles in 1945 and '46. In the early '50s, 6' 5" Lakers forward Jim Pollard (a.k.a. the Kangaroo Kid) often amused himself by dunking in practice, but he never did it in games because NBA players considered the dunk a breach of etiquette. The shot only caught on after the 1976 merger with the ABA, where players like Julius Erving had been turning the dunk into an art form.



MOTHER DUNKERS
Kurland (top) and Leslie jam into history.



Discovered By antiterrorist police in Greece, a cache of explosives including

THE SHOW | BY BILL SCHEFT

(*Tap, tap*) Is this thing on?

SALT LAKE MOB SCENE Forget what you've heard. At the 2006 Winter Games in Turin, Italy, Ice Fixing will not be a demonstration sport.

A reputed Russian mobster, Alimzhan Tokhtakhounov, was arrested for trying to fix the ice dancing event at the Salt Lake City Games. He would have gotten away with it if he hadn't been ratted out by his brother Fredo Tokhtakhounov.

But this mob guy is no dummy. He's already hired a very sharp lawyer, who advised him to plead "Not Gillooly."

Are you like me? Are you waiting for Sale and Pelletier to hold a press conference to announce that this is not about them?

HBO REALITY SERIES HARD KNOCKS LANDS IN DALLAS.

I feel so foolish. I thought HBO already had a show about the Cowboys: *Curb Your Enthusiasm*.

The Cowboys are ready for the cameras. For the last two months Brian Billick has been giving Dave Campo bluster lessons.

Lots of inside revelations on the show. For instance, I didn't know you had to report this, but the Cowboys placed OT Aaron Gibson on the Physically Unable to Have a Salad list.

Don't miss the second installment. Dave Campo shows up with his evil sidekick, Mini-Campo.

According to a poll, 28% of NFL fans say the Dallas Cowboys improved themselves the most during the off-season. The other 72% prefer Jerry Jones's original face.

Come on. Jerry Jones's private jet is on its second nose.

BASEBALL HEADED FOR FALL It still looks like Sept. 16 may be closing time for the union. Good move. Who wants to be

playing the same night *The King of Queens* has its season premiere?

This would be the ninth work stoppage since 1972. Tenth if you count the Braves after Game 2 in the '96 World Series.

Bud Selig may be starting to crack. He's now threatening to contract the bratwurst from the sausage race at Miller Park.

Despite all the dire possibilities, attendance in Minnesota has jumped during the last few weeks. It's a combination of two factors: 1) the Twins' commanding lead in the AL Central; 2) a local classified ad describing the Metrodome as a "perfect fixer-upper for newlyweds."

Tell me if I'm wrong. With all the distracting talk about steroids and strikes, has there ever been a better time to cork your bat?

In other news, the Red Sox designated Jose Offerman for assignment. The assignment: Write 2,000 words on how to earn \$26 million stranding runners and dropping throws.

Offerman was shocked. Never saw it coming. If you're scoring at home, that makes 289 signs he's missed.

Boston also re-

leased RHP Rich Garces. He had to turn sideways to clear waivers.

Unlike Offerman, Garces was a real gentleman. He offered to eat his contract.

JIM KELLY INVITES 1,200 FRIENDS AND EX-TEAMMATES TO HALL OF FAME INDUCTION. And Scott Norwood made 75 bucks parking cars.

LAWYERS FOR FORMER NFL WR RAE CAR-RUTH APPEAL MURDER CONVICTION. Remember, if the conviction is not overturned, Rae loses one of his timeouts in the yard.

My time is up. You've been great. Enjoy Pablo Cruise.



Q+A DUSTY RHODES

The legendary pro wrestler (a.k.a. the American Dream) is now 53 and co-hosting Turner South's *Hey, the Braves Are Next*, the pregame show for Atlanta Braves baseball.

SI: What makes you different from every other baseball announcer?

Rhodes: I don't pull any punches. If I like to go deer hunting or I don't want to ride the number 7 train in New York City, I tell it like it is. The common man wants to know what the hell a player eats, does he date and does he take Viagra.



"I'm not a Bonds fan."

SI: Your website lists you at 6'3" and 289-plus pounds. How many pluses are we talking about?

Rhodes: We're talking about 312 pounds. And I'm down to 6'1".

SI: Jesse Ventura pulled it off in Minnesota. What about Dusty Rhodes as the governor of Georgia?

Rhodes: If you were in my truck in Georgia and we went anywhere, you would think Elvis had gotten out. But I don't know if those people can vote.

SI: How would John Rocker have done in the old National Wrestling Alliance?

Rhodes: Rocker would have been one of the Four Horsemen with Arn Anderson, Ric Flair and Tully Blanchard. As the storyline went on, he would have become a good guy and become my partner.

SI: Who's the one guy in baseball who you'd love to take a crack at in the wrestling ring?

Rhodes: I'm not a Barry Bonds fan, so it would be Bonds. And I like Mike Piazza, but there's something about his face that drives me crazy.

SI: Should baseball ban steroids?

Rhodes: I stood across the ring from Superstar Billy Graham, and I looked at this unbelievable body that this great man had. To know that steroids nearly killed him, man, I think they should test.

SI: What kind of hitter would Andre the Giant have made?

Rhodes: Andre would have been scary, but I don't know how quick his wrists were. Can you imagine Randy Johnson peering in on Andre the Giant? Wow.

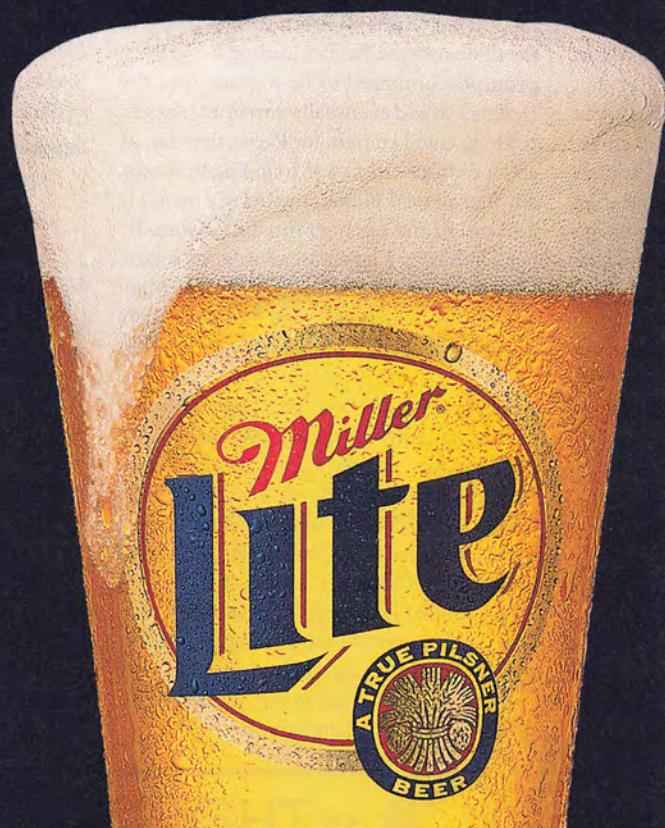
SI: Is Chipper really a good name for a man?

Rhodes: I knew a hooker one time in Kansas City who was named Chipper. But what I want to know is, why isn't Chipper Jones playing third base? What the hell are they thinking? And why isn't he throwing the ball across to Ryan Klesko?

—R.D.

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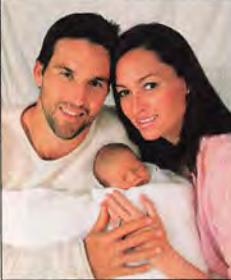
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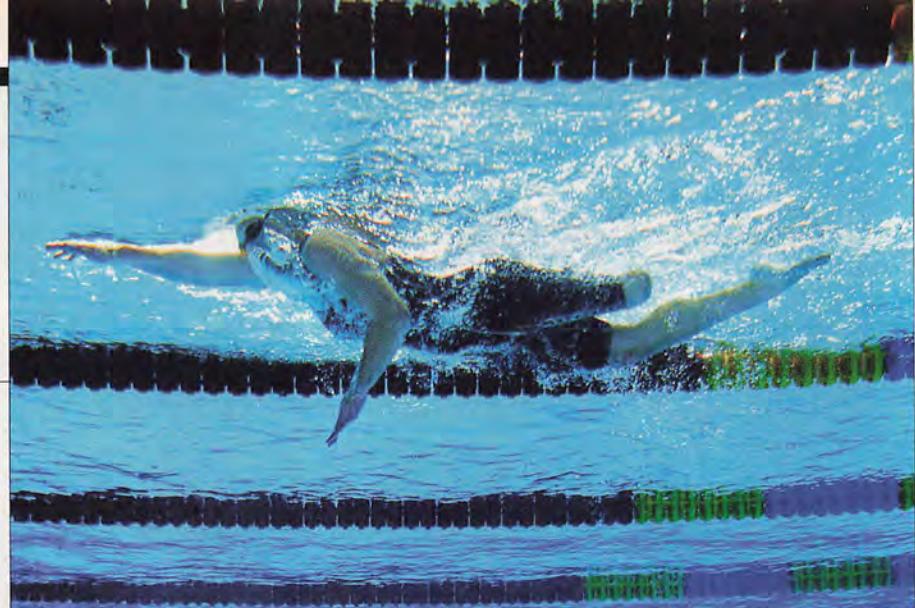
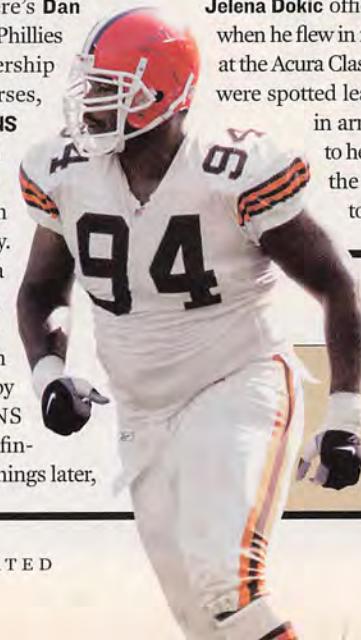
HOW DOES a 2020 Wimbledon final between **Jaden Gil Agassi** and **Joshua Patrick Rafter** sound? Well, **Andre Agassi** and **Steffi Graf** had a son last October, and now **Patrick Rafter** and his girlfriend, **Lara Feltham**, are the parents of six-pound, 11-ounce Joshua, born Aug. 1. The event was front-page news in Australia, where the couple lives. "We are ecstatic to have our little man with us," Rafter said. "Everything went well with the delivery." Since Australia's Davis Cup finals loss to France last November, Rafter, 29, has been on a sabbatical from tennis; he had been playing with a bum right shoulder and other injuries for several years. Rafter's coy on whether he'll return to the ATP Tour, but last week *The Courier Mail* of Brisbane reported that "friends and tennis colleagues are expecting him to resume practice later this month."

Marriage may top his to-do list. On Monday, when the first photo of the couple with Joshua appeared, Feltham, 33, a former swimwear model, was sporting a sparkling diamond on the ring finger of her left hand.

■ Anyone can lose at one sport on a given afternoon—and then there's **Dan Plesac**. Two weeks ago the Phillies pitcher, who has an ownership interest in 12 harness horses, bought a partial stake in **ENS Snapshot**, a trotter who went off as the third favorite in the \$1 million Hambletonian on Saturday. After the third inning of a game against the Dodgers, Plesac ducked into the clubhouse at Veterans Stadium to watch the Kentucky Derby on trotting—and saw ENS Snapshot fade badly and finish seventh. Then, a few innings later,



Raising a Rafter



PICTURE THIS

Australian swimmer Ian Thorpe won six gold medals at the XVII Commonwealth Games in Manchester, England, but the honor for outstanding athlete went to South Africa's Natalie du Toit, 18, who lost her left leg below the knee in a motor scooter accident 18 months ago. Swimming in both the disabled and main programs, du Toit set world records in the 50- and 100-meter disabled freestyle and finished eighth in the standard 800 free.

Plesac, a lefty reliever, found himself on the mound facing **Shawn Green** with two outs in the ninth and the Phillies leading 6–4. Green promptly homered to tie a game that the Dodgers would eventually win in 12 innings. Nothing could go right for Plesac that day. At about the time Green was rounding the bases, a trotter named Plesac (the horse's owner is a friend of the pitcher) finished a soundly beaten third in a lesser Meadowlands stakes. "Let's not talk about that," Plesac said when questioned about horses after the game. "Let's just talk baseball."

■ Brazilian Formula One driver **Enrique Bernoldi** has yet to register a point on this year's circuit, but he appears to be winning in love. His budding relationship with 19-year-old tennis pinup **Jelena Dokic** officially went public last week when he flew in from Germany to watch Dokic at the Acura Classic in Carlsbad, Calif. The two were spotted leaving the tennis facility arm in arm. "I explain a little bit of F/1 to her, and she explains a bit about the tennis to me," Bernoldi, 23, told London's *Sun*.

■ ESPN's **Dick Vitale** has a fan for life in **David Sapp**, a 39-year-old radar man for the Coast Guard in Morgan City, La. Sapp and his wife, **Jackie**, spent three days in Vitale's hometown of Sarasota, Fla., after winning the grand prize

THIS WEEK'S SIGN OF THE APOCALYPSE

Sportsvision Inc. has launched a website (www.lovethele.com) for fans to express their affection for the yellow, electronic first-down marker that the company has developed for TV coverage of football.

in the "Win a Trip to Meet Dick Vitale Contest." (No, second prize wasn't a week in Sarasota.) Vitale sponsors and runs the contest, and the Sapps' payoff included a room at the Ritz-Carlton, meals with Vitale and box seats to a Devil Rays game that Vitale chauffeured them to in a Mercedes.

«THEY SAID IT GERARD WARREN

The Browns' second-year defensive tackle on whether he feels like a seasoned NFL veteran: "Maybe not a seasoned vet, but a marinating one."

Redefining Style

SKECHERS SPORT
FOOTWEAR

THE WEEK IN TELEVISION

AUG. 9-15

SUNDAY 8/11 > CBS 3 PM > Buick Open, Final Round

You'd think this was the Ferrari Open by the looks of the elite field. Three of the world's top four players—Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Retief Goosen—will be teeing up at Warwick Hills for the \$594,000 winner's share.

SUNDAY 8/11 > ESPN 8 PM > Mets at Cardinals

St. Louis players erupted in applause when they heard about the trade that brought them third baseman Scott Rolen. Expect the Busch Stadium crowd to be equally excited in the last game of Rolen's first homestand with the first-place club.

>>DON'T MISS

SUNDAY 8/11 > NBC 4 PM

AVP Manhattan Beach Open

Imagine: 48 teams of bronzed gods and goddesses spankin' it and poppin' it at pro beach volleyball's marquee event. The duo of Holly McPeak and Elaine Youngs will be aiming for a fifth consecutive 2002 AVP tour victory.



McPeak gets down and sandy.

MONDAY 8/12 > ESPN 8 PM > Dolphins at Buccaneers

Battling Bucs teammates Warren Sapp and Keyshawn Johnson have been called the Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis of the NFL. When you're as big and nasty as these guys, that's no joke; let's hope Tampa Bay plays football, not family feud.

WEDNESDAY 8/14 > ESPN2 8 PM > Girls Little League Softball World Series

While the boys head for Williamsport, the world's best 11- and 12-year-old female softball players take to the diamond at Portland's Alpenrose Dairy.

THURSDAY 8/15 > TNT 2 PM > PGA Championship, First Round

For Phil Mickelson, the Sisyphus of the PGA Tour, the Championship has been particularly torturous. Last year David Toms sank a 10-footer on the final hole to beat Mickelson by a stroke.

►During more than a decade of calling NBA games for NBC, Steve Jones provided a measured counterpart to analyst Bill Walton, especially when Walton went on one of his here's-something-off-the-top-of-my-head-that's-as-trippy-as-a-Jerry-Garcia-guitar-solo rants. The yin-and-yang chemistry between the pair often proved electric, and Jones distinguished himself with sharp analysis. That's why it's disappointing that he hasn't been named to one of the primary teams chosen by the NBA's new broadcast alliance of ABC, ESPN and TNT. With a few secondary analyst jobs remaining on the NBA's national outlets, here's hoping Jones finds a slot. "I'm anticipating I'll be doing games nationally," says Jones, who will still call Trail Blazers games for Portland's KGW-TV. "I don't want to be looked at as campaigning for an opportunity, but I don't think I'm out of the picture."

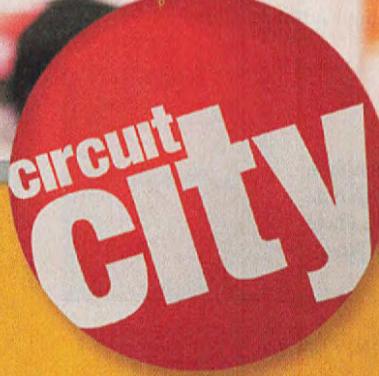
"nationally," says Jones, who will still call Trail Blazers games for Portland's KGW-TV. "I don't want to be looked at as campaigning for an opportunity, but I don't think I'm out of the picture."

►This has not been a good summer for televised All-Star games, but at least Fox aired every inning of baseball's unresolved midsummer classic. ABC, in contrast, abruptly moved Saturday's MLS All-Star Game to ESPN with 20 minutes left in a rain-delayed contest that was tied 1-1. Except on the West Coast—where ABC aired the game to its end—viewers who missed the switch or didn't have cable saw the network's scheduled programming instead of the dramatic three-goal flurry that culminated in the MLS All-Stars' 3-2 win over the U.S. National Team.

►NBC's use of extra cameras at Sunday's Brickyard 400—the network deployed 79 cameras, up from the 60 it typically uses at NASCAR races—paid off. The setup gave viewers a dramatic perspective on the early-race crash of driver Geoff Bodine. —R.D.

UNDER REVIEW

- Jonesing for a Job
- Abandoned All-Stars
- Cameras on a Crash



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Faces in the Crowd

Pam Reed, TUCSON

Ultramarathon

Reed, 41, won the 25th annual 135-mile Badwater Ultramarathon in 27:56:47, finishing almost five hours ahead of her next competitor, a man. The race starts in Death Valley, Calif., and ends part-way up Mount Whitney. Reed is the first woman to win the event.



Hayley Peirsol, IRVINE, CALIF.

Swimming

Hayley, a senior at Newport Harbor High, set a meet record of 16:27.78 in the 1,500-meter freestyle at the Janet Evans Invitational. The previous record had been established three years ago by 2000 Olympic bronze medalist Kaitlin Sandeno.



Art Baird, CLOVIS, N.MEX.

Golf

Baird, 74, a retired drafter for Boeing who lost his right arm in a 1952 industrial accident, hit a hole in one at the 135-yard 7th hole at Clovis Municipal Golf Course. Baird had previously made a hole in one in '91 at Roadhaven golf course in Apache Junction, Ariz.



Missy Clayton, BRADENTON, FLA.

Tennis

Missy, 12, won the singles title and finished runner-up in doubles at the Super National Clay Court Championships. Missy, seeded fourth in the Girls 12 Division, beat top seed Holly Johnson of Tallahassee, Fla., in straight sets in the semifinals.



Robert Reed, SAN ANTONIO

Fencing

Reed, 38, won the gold medal in Men's Division 1-A Épée at the U.S. Fencing Association Summer Nationals in Greenville, S.C. Reed advanced to the nationals after winning the Southwestern regional tournament for the third time in five years.



Jaime Sawler, STRATHAM, N.H.

Track and Field

Sawler, a senior at Bates College, won Division III championships in the hammer throw and the 35-pound weight throw. His winning hammer throw (188' 10") was 7' 6" better than the nearest competitor. He went undefeated in those events in 2001-02.



Katie Turrin, GREAT FALLS, MONT.

Bowling

Katie, 15, advanced undefeated through double-elimination match play to win the Girls' Division II Coca-Cola Youth Bowling Championships in Winter Haven, Fla. She defeated Allyse Hickman of Cross Lanes, W.Va., 221-189 (with handicaps added) in the final.



TRIVIAL MATTERS

Role Models

Moonlighting Should baseball players strike, they can always turn to acting. During the 1994 strike, an episode of *Seinfeld* featured then Yankees manager Buck Showalter. Keith Hernandez, Derek Jeter and Paul O'Neill have also appeared on *Seinfeld*. Another sitcom famous for athlete cameos is *The Brady Bunch*, which ran from '69 to '74. Which of these athletes never acted on the show?

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| a. Lew Alcindor | b. Deacon Jones |
| c. Joe Namath | d. Wes Parker |

Rock Solid Dwayne Johnson, better known as the pro wrestler the Rock, has built a formidable acting career. He starred in *The Scorpion King* and has appeared on TV in *That '70s Show*, *The Net*, *DAG* and *Star Trek: Voyager*. Before becoming an entertainer, Johnson played college football. Two-part question: Which college did he play for, and which current NFLer did Johnson back up as a senior?

This Week's Matchup Match the actor with his former athletic role.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| I. Dean Cain | a. Cubs first baseman |
| 2. Chuck Connors | b. Harvard lineman |
| 3. Mark Harmon | c. Princeton def. back |
| 4. Tommy Lee Jones | d. UCLA quarterback |

Call to Order Put these NFL players turned actors in order of most television and movie roles played.

- | |
|--------------------|
| a. Jim Brown |
| b. John Matuszak |
| c. Bob Golic |
| d. Fred Williamson |

MOONLIGHTING: a. Lew Alcindor, later known as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, never appeared on *The Brady Bunch*. He's been in movies such as *Fletch*, *Airplane!* and *Dr. T*. b. Deacon Jones, senior for the Miami Hurricanes from 1991 to '94. His senior season he backed up NFL All-Pro Warren Sapp. c. Joe Namath, 25, Golie (seven seasons) and D2: *The Mighty Ducks*. d. Wes Parker, 57, Brown (57), *Call to Order*: William Shatner (91 roles), *Rock Solid*: Dwayne Johnson was a defensive tackle for the Miami Hurricanes from 1991 to '94. His senior season he backed up NFL All-Pro Warren Sapp. **ANSWERS**

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DODGE PRESENTS Parents' Guide To Youth Sports

Strength-Training Tips To Lift Young Athletes

BY RICK WOLFF

Last month I gave parents some pointers on teaching their young athletes about the dangers of steroids (July 8 issue). Using drugs to build a more muscular frame is certainly a terrible mistake. But there's nothing wrong with active youngsters' trying to increase their strength, because they can do so in healthy ways. Here's how.

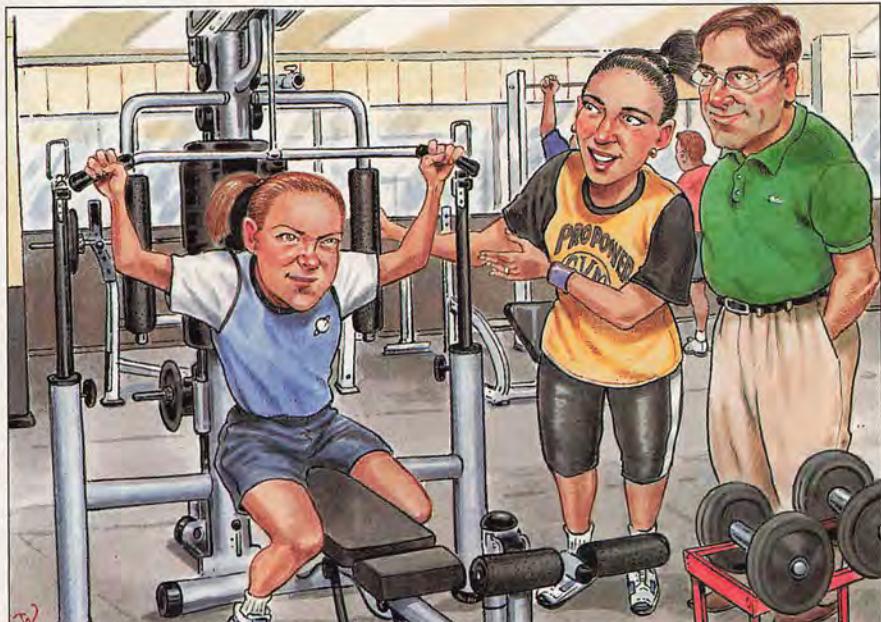
Most people used to believe that kids shouldn't lift weights until they were at least 16 or 17. Any younger than that, the thinking went, and they could seriously damage their developing bodies. Some even thought lifting could stunt a youngster's growth. But times have changed. Fitness coaches and pediatricians now generally agree that children ages 12-14 can start working with weights, and some experts say it's O.K. to begin even younger. Dr. Michael Axe, author of *Weight Training: Designing a Program for Children and Adolescents*, says his three kids all started at age seven. "The point of importance is that they're mature enough to know how to do it safely," Axe says. "And the equipment has to be the size for young children. That means the parents have to make special investments."

Parents also must make sure the youngsters aren't lifting on their own. "They should do so only under the strict supervision of a qualified trainer," says Greg Brittenham, a New York Knicks assistant coach who directs the team's training and conditioning. "And make your child's doctor aware of it."

The value of training with weights extends beyond the obvious. Along with building muscle, when done correctly and using a full range of motion, it can also improve bone structure and density and help develop a youngster's flexibility, exposing another old myth—that lifting weights has the opposite effect.

Brittenham and others in his field advocate a more functional approach to strength training for kids. Introduce them first to basic exercises that have little or no weight. The emphasis must be on using proper technique. As they get older, the weights can gradually get heavier and the number of different activities can increase. "I like a youngster to develop a strong foundation for his or her body, and a good, solid program to do that includes working with medicine balls, stability balls, balance boards and so on," Brittenham says.

He recommends that kids do at most three sets of eight to 12 repetitions for each exercise. They shouldn't lift more than three



Parents must make sure their youngsters lift weights only under professional supervision.

ILLUSTRATION BY S.B. WHITEHEAD

times a week, and they should never sacrifice technique for additional reps or weight. For safety reasons, Brittenham also discourages youngsters from lifting any weights over their heads or faces or any other lifting that unnecessarily strains their spines (for example, bench presses and shoulder presses).

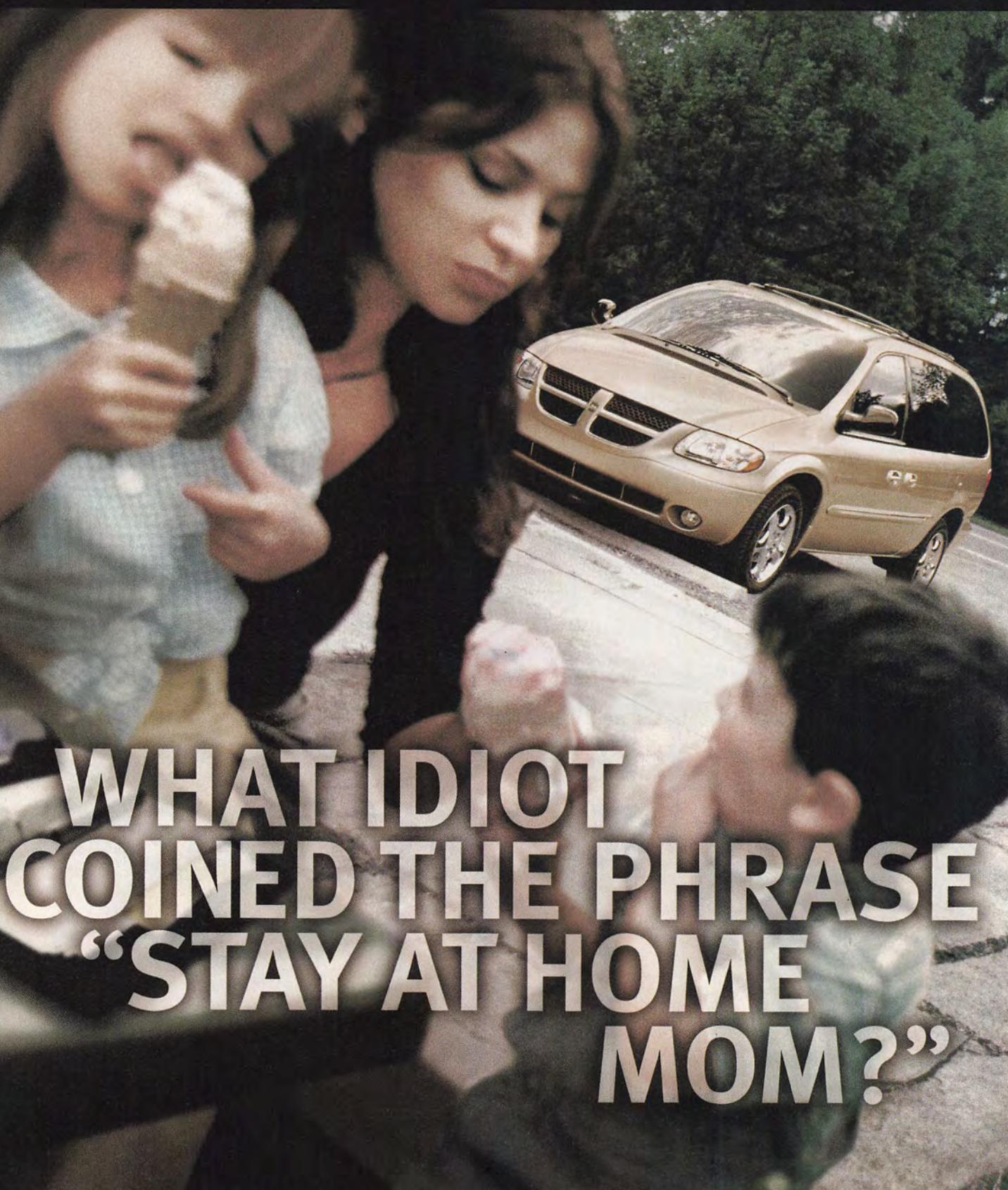
According to Cedric Bryant, the vice president of educational services at the American Council on Exercise, kids ages 11-13 can begin doing some of the more traditional strength training exercises, but "really keeping the resistance loads light," he says. "When they hit about 14 or 15, you can start to think more in terms of some developmental-type resistance training programs. Then when they're 16 or older, they can move to entry-level adult programs."

And what can parents tell the skinny teenager who weight trains all summer but is disappointed in the fall when he doesn't see bulging biceps? "Relax," Brittenham says. "Just because you don't immediately see the results of your strength training doesn't mean it's not working. It's just that your body's hormones may not have fully kicked in yet to make those muscles pop out. But don't worry—you are getting stronger, and that's what counts."

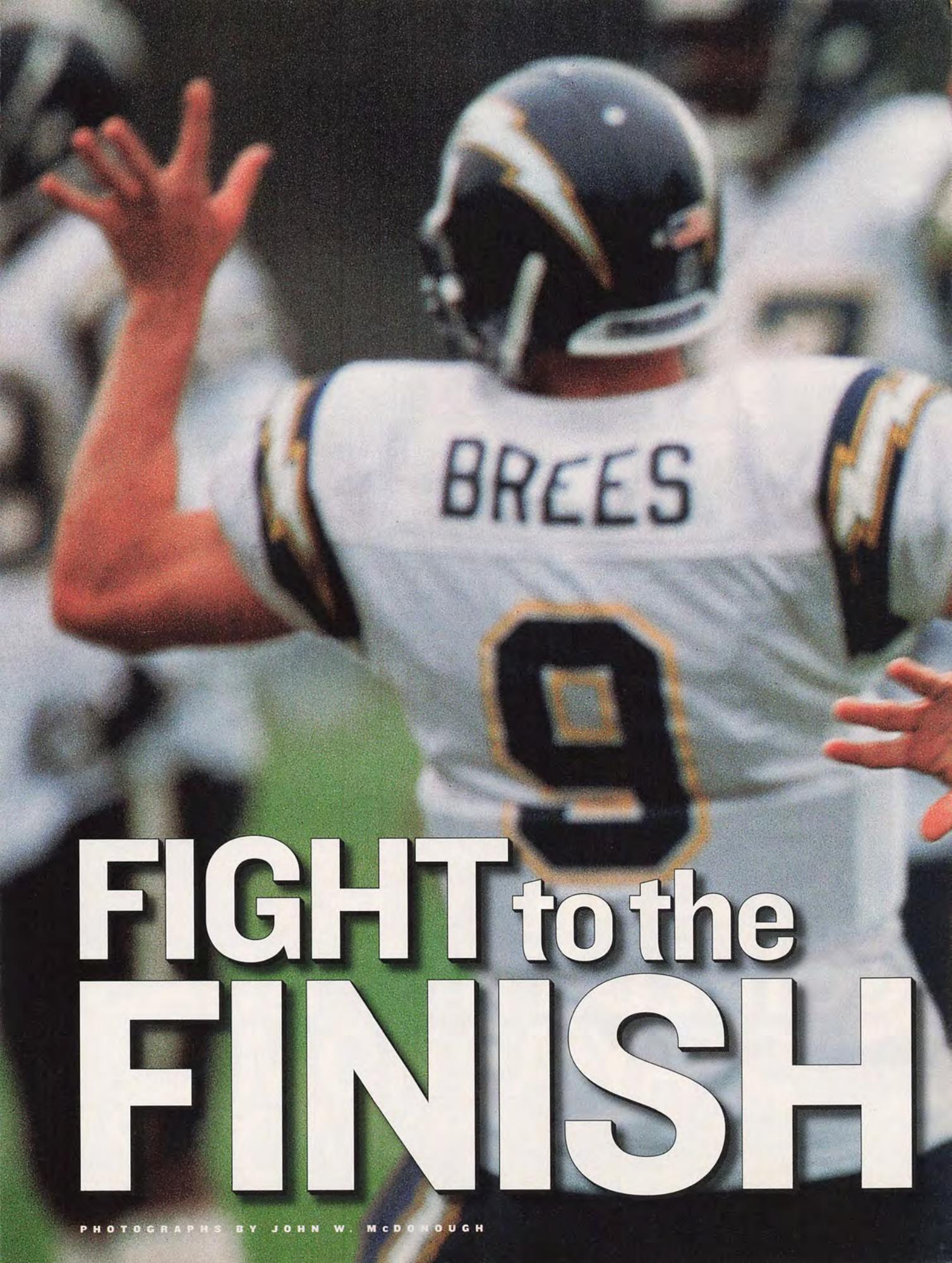
Rick Wolff is chairman of the Center for Sports Parenting at the Institute for International Sport. He can be contacted at www.sportsparenting.org.

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GRAB LIFE BY THE HORNS



**WHAT IDIOT
COINED THE PHRASE
“STAY AT HOME
MOM?”**



FIGHT to the FINISH

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN W. McDONOUGH

SPARRING PARTNERS

The Chargers' remarkably friendly QB battle pits Flutie (13,249 yards in eight NFL seasons) and Brees (221 career yards).

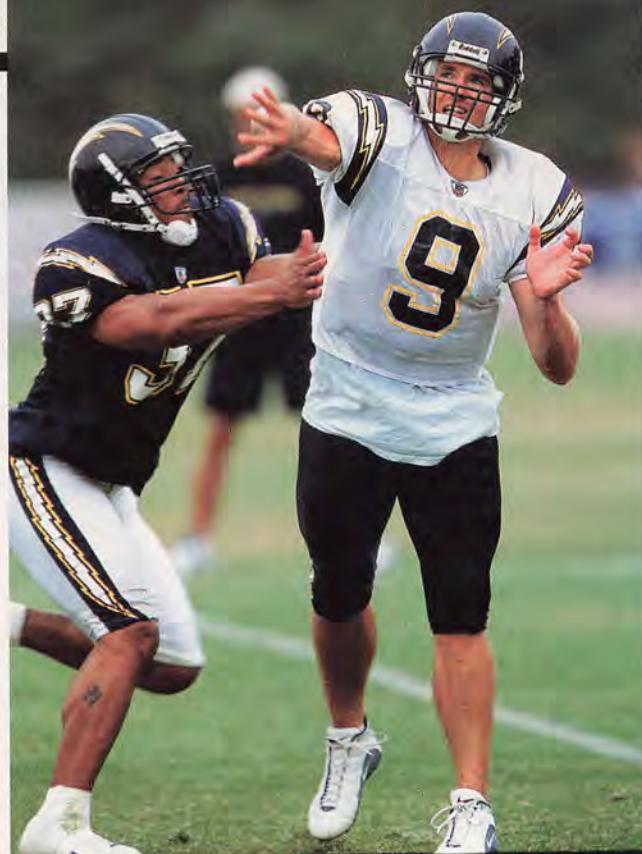
Still battling for a job at the age of 39, perennial underdog **Doug Flutie** is facing one more duel—this time with up-and-comer **Drew Brees**

BY TIM LAYDEN

AT THE end of training camp practices, many of the San Diego Chargers follow humbly as future Hall of Fame linebacker Junior Seau leads a series of voluntary conditioning drills. In late-afternoon sunlight players carry, throw and retrieve 14-pound, beach-ball-sized medicine balls while running 100-yard sprints on the grass, adding to the day's fatigue. "It shows dedication, willingness to work hard," says Seau. Late last week quarterbacks Drew Brees and Doug Flutie shared a medicine ball because there weren't enough to go around. While Flutie sprinted with the ball in his right hand, Brees ran behind him, turning cartwheels. At the 50-yard line Flutie shouted "Halfway!" and tossed the ball blindly back to Brees, who snagged it and carried it to the goal line, where both men arrived in stitches.

Theirs is one of the fiercest intrasquad training camp position battles in the NFL, but it looks like recess. Consider the disconnect: Flutie, who will turn 40 in October and has played professional football for 17 seasons since heaving the Hail Mary in his penultimate regular season game for Boston College, is fighting Brees, the Chargers' second-round 2001 draft pick and 23-year-old quarterback of the future. By September, one of them will instantly become the most important element in the Chargers' attempt to turn around a franchise that hasn't reached the playoffs since 1995. First-year coach Marty Schottenheimer declared the job wide open in January and has promised equal practice snaps. "Every day in practice it's *on* for both of them," says wide receiver Tim Dwight. Yet Brees and Flutie are such compadres that it seems their workouts shouldn't end with the customary earsplitting air horn but with their mommies calling them home to dinner.

This duel would be arresting under any circumstance but is especially interesting considering Flutie's recent history. Refresher



Their workouts shouldn't end with an earsplitting air horn but with their mommies calling them to dinner.

course: From 1998 through 2000 in Buffalo, Flutie and Rob Johnson waged one of the ugliest quarterback feuds in NFL history, dividing not only the team but the Bills' manic fans. Johnson once accused Flutie of manipulating loyalties by planting anonymous quotes in the media. In an interview with SPORTS ILLUSTRATED last summer Johnson called Flutie a "self-promoter" and accused him of trying to curry favor with Bills teammates. "This is different," Flutie said last week at the Chargers' training camp in La Jolla, still irked by the subject. "This is legitimate competition. And I respect Drew."

Brees and Flutie were thrown together in the spring of 2001, when new Chargers general manager John Butler, who had brought Flutie to Buffalo in 1998, signed him as an unrestricted free agent and then took Brees with the first pick of the second round of the NFL draft. Their careers overlap on the quarterback's time line, Flutie near the end

THE ANSWER A quick study with an accurate arm, Brees could put an end to San Diego's six-year playoff drought.

of his career, Brees just beginning his. "I was five years old when he threw that [Hail Mary] pass to beat Miami," says Brees, wide-eyed. "My stepmom is a big fan of his."

Yet from the first minicamp a year ago they were kindred spirits. Flutie took the opening set of reps with the starters, and when he jogged to the sideline, he approached Brees and pointed out several subtleties in the routes he had just thrown. It was a revelatory moment for Brees. "When I got drafted, people warned me about Doug," he says. "They said, 'Watch out for him. You know what he did to Rob Johnson.' But here he was, sharing things right away. And it was no big deal. Totally natural."

Age aside, they found themselves similar in many ways. Flutie, 5' 10", 180 pounds and the 1984 Heisman Trophy winner, could write a treatise on the ways a player is impugned for being too small. Brees, 6 feet, 212, wasn't recruited out of high school in Austin by his home-

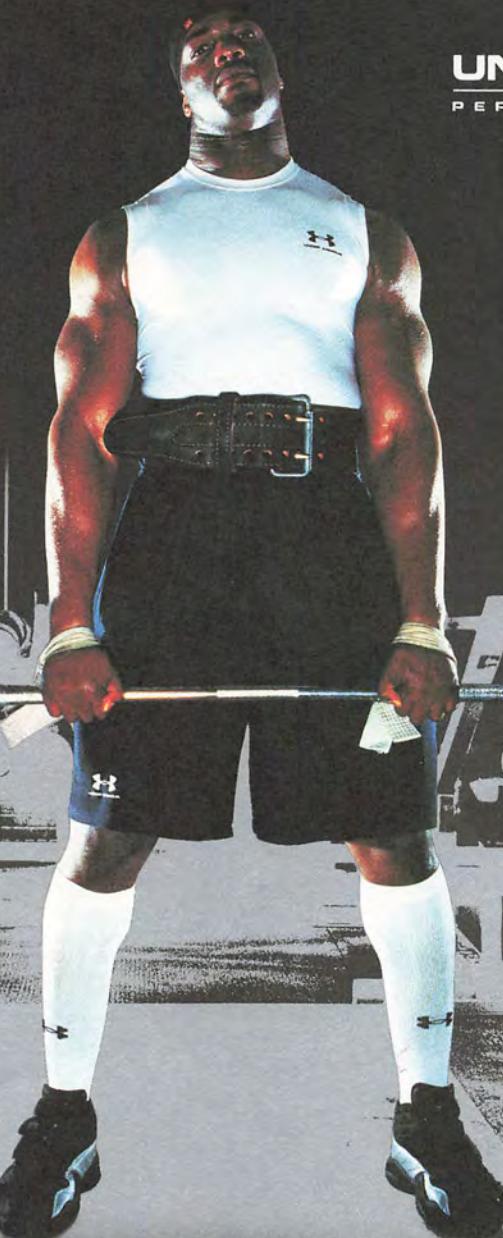
town Texas Longhorns (among others) in part because they thought he was too short. (He ended up at Purdue, breaking virtually all the school's passing records and finishing third in the 2000 Heisman race.) The two quarterbacks share a passion for all things competitive, and they quickly began playing golf together away from the team and inventing daily tests on the field: throwing at trash cans, blocking sleds and goalposts, and dropping pooh punts inside the five-yard line. Every day a dozen games to play. "We have very similar personalities," says Flutie, who dragged Brees out to play off-season pickup basketball at San Diego State. (To date they have turned down wild man Dwight's offers to teach them to surf San Diego waves.)

Their friendship was cemented a year ago on coach Mike Riley's sinking ship, when Flutie started all 16 games, including the nine straight losses that ended the sea-



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UP FOR GRABS

Outside of San Diego, here are the most intriguing position battles in NFL camps

1. Broncos running back: Terrell Davis and Olandis Gary versus Clinton Portis

In the Denver camp every comment about Davis is prefaced with, "If he stays healthy...." Based on his recent track record—five knee surgeries in three seasons—no one can be sure that he will. That's why Portis, the cat-quick second-round draft pick out of Miami, is already attracting a lot of attention. And don't forget Gary, who rushed for 1,159 yards as a rookie three years ago and is in the best shape of his life. Coach Mike Shanahan would lose some power running if he goes with Portis, but Shanahan has never had a durable speed back.

Forecast: When all is said and done, Portis will lead the team in carries this season.

2. Bucs quarterback: Brad Johnson versus Rob Johnson

Coach Jon Gruden likes the steadiness, headiness and accuracy of Brad, and he keeps calling him the starter. But Gruden gets excited about Rob, saying, "Is he a talent? He's explosive as hell!" The longer Johnson and Johnson fight it out, the more Gruden will fall in love with Rob's athleticism and arm strength.

Forecast: It may take until midseason, but Rob Johnson will be the man.

3. Cowboys cornerback: Bryant Westbrook versus Pat Dennis and Duane Hawthorne

Dallas bypassed its biggest need, cornerback, high in the draft, counting on Westbrook to continue his rebound from a torn Achilles that he suffered while

TIME WILL TELL Rob Johnson has too much talent to stay on the Bucs' bench.

playing for the Lions in November 2000. While looking good at times, he has lacked consistency. Dennis is running ahead of Hawthorne, but neither is setting the world on fire.

Forecast: Westbrook wins the job, but he'll get beaten often.

4. Chiefs tight end: Tony Gonzalez versus president Carl Peterson

The best tight end in the game is a holdout because the Chiefs rejected his request for \$4.5 million per year and the right to pursue an NBA career in



SKINS GAME Matthews (left) or Wuerffel will get the nod from Spurrier.

the off-season. Peterson says he won't pay Gonzalez for more than one year, at \$3.05 million, until he gives up his hoops dream. "His NBA chances are as a 10th or 11th player, for minimum salary, and he'd be an injury risk each season," says Peterson. "For the money we may invest in him, he owes us dedication to football."

Forecast: Gonzalez holds out until mid-September, then signs a one-year deal.

5. Redskins quarterback: Danny Wuerffel versus Shane Matthews, Sage Rosenfels and Patrick Ramsey

Forget that new coach Steve Spurrier started Rosenfels in the preseason opener; the second-year man is too inconsistent. As of Monday, Ramsey, the team's first-round pick out of Tulane, was still a holdout. That leaves the two former Gators: Wuerffel, who was the better college player, and Matthews, who has been the better pro.

Forecast: Wuerffel's showing he has enough arm to throw the mid-to-deep ball. Plus, Spurrier loves the guy. —Peter King

son and sealed Riley's firing. Brees appeared in only one game, but that was enough to whet the rabble's appetite. On Nov. 4, after Flutie suffered a concussion in the second quarter with San Diego trailing the Kansas City Chiefs 16–0, Brees completed 15 of 27 passes for 221 yards and rallied the Chargers with 20 consecutive points before they lost 25–20. It was a stunning debut, even to his teammates. "Just walked right into the huddle and started calling plays, totally cool," says wideout Curtis Conway, a 10-year veteran. "Very impressive."

San Diego fans remembered the performance when the season was clearly slipping away. They chanted for Brees and wrote his name on placards. The usual stuff. There was speculation in the media that Butler was telling Riley to keep playing Flutie. ("I've never told a coach who to play, and I never will," says Butler, who last week went public with the news that he is undergoing treatment for lung cancer). Microphones and notebooks were pushed under Brees's nose, giving him the opportunity to plead for a shot, but he didn't take the bait. Down the stretch Riley gave him equal practice reps with Flutie and kept telling him to be ready. Still, he sat, saying only that he'd love to get some experience but not at Flutie's expense. "Doug was playing just fine," says Brees, even now. "Plus, I'm smart enough to know that everybody loves the backup quarterback."

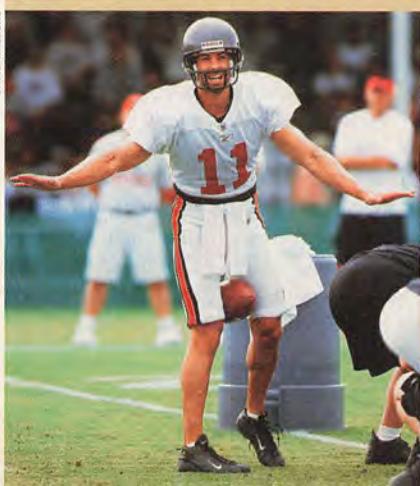
Brees's restraint earned Flutie's respect. "In that situation it's very easy to stir things up, undermine somebody," says Flutie. "Drew knew how to handle himself."

The quarterbacks' mutual admiration has forestalled the formation of Flutie and Brees camps within the team. "It would be easier if one of them was a d---, I mean jerk," center Cory Raymer said on live radio last week.

There are other factors. "Look, this team has won six games in two years," says Seau, Mr. Charger himself. "If this was corporate America, a lot of these people wouldn't have jobs after performances like that. We can't afford to be divided on anything."

Schottenheimer also detests controversy and has a long memory, citing a team-dividing battle that ensued when the Boston Patriots, for whom he was playing, acquired veteran Joe Kapp to unseat Mike Taliadro in 1970. "Divided the team right down the middle," Schottenheimer says. "We will go to great lengths to avoid that here."

Schottenheimer has kept his promise to



split practice time equally between Brees and Flutie (they alternate days with the first unit), creating a fascinating contrast of age and style. Flutie remains remarkably nimble. In scramble drills last week he darted away from traffic as if he were two decades younger and delivered searing sideline completions. "He's got a better arm than people realize," says Conway. "He can stick it in there." The off-season

the back of the end zone. One day later Brees made the same play. "Very instinctive," says Flutie. "There have been times when I was competing for a job and could do things that I knew the other guy couldn't do. This time that's not necessarily the case. Drew has a real feel for things out there."

Scrimmages are charged with intensity. That's not only because Schottenheimer is a taskmaster but also because every play is a

a goal line out pattern in smothering coverage. Back and forth, back and forth.

"The plan was that somebody would earn the job and that it would be clear-cut," says Schottenheimer. "But they're too close. I can tell you right now, it's not going to be clear-cut. We're just going to have to make a decision and live with it. After that, he's the quarterback. Period." Schottenheimer has said only that Flutie, because he was

"I came to the NFL to win a Super Bowl," says Flutie. "If that means Drew pulls the trigger and I come off the bench, so be it."

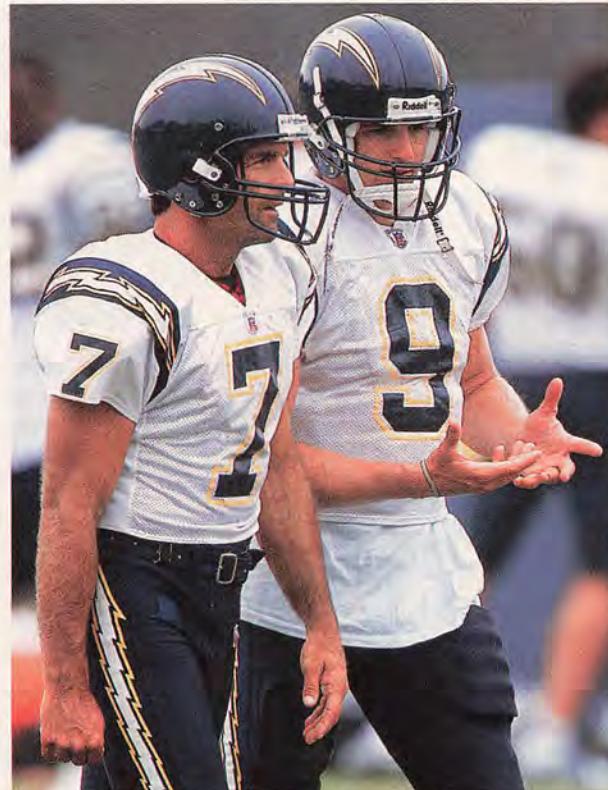
regimen that has preserved him so splendidly is a throwback: relentless basketball games, countless push-ups and sit-ups, and, only in recent years, weightlifting with very light weights. Eighteen years after his scrambling Heisman, Flutie is still one of the most elusive and creative quarterbacks ever to play the game. "We make a mistake, he gets out of trouble," says Chargers right tackle Vaughn Parker. "You've got to love that."

Despite tendon surgery in 1995, Flutie never ices his arm after practice; Brees does it every day, as a precaution. "I love getting out on the field and throwing," says Flutie. "I'd go to three practices a day if I could. The mental part—meetings, learning new material—is a chore now."

Brees has played in only that one NFL game, yet he reads progressions like a five-year veteran. Says Schottenheimer, "I talked to Norv [Turner, Riley's offensive coordinator], and he said that Drew sees the entire field as well as anybody he's coached, and that includes Troy [Aikman]."

Adds Dwight, "Doug has a little bit more of a knack for making the quick decision on where to go with the ball, but that's experience. Drew is still so young, but the kid, I'm telling you, has an amazing learning curve."

Brees was drafted high because of his uncommon accuracy, and he has impressed even the Master of Improvisation himself with his inventiveness. During one recent scrimmage Flutie rolled right, away from pressure, and threw a rope on the run into



BROTHERS IN ARMS Brees earned Flutie's undying respect by not undermining the old man during last year's dismal 5-11 campaign.

piece of evidence in a quarterback competition that Schottenheimer is convinced will produce no decisive winner. When Flutie hummed a strike on a red-zone seam route to tight end Steve Heiden through a tiny hole in the secondary last Thursday, the customary practice crowd of about 500 spectators gasped and teammates whooped. They responded likewise five minutes later when Brees drilled Conway in the hands on

last year's starter, will start the first exhibition game. Handicappers suggest that a curmudgeon such as Schottenheimer will defer to Flutie's experience, but the coach denies it. Schottenheimer is quick to point out that he elevated rookie Bernie Kosar to starter when he was coaching the Cleveland Browns in 1985. "I'll play the guy who gives us the best chance to win, now," says Schottenheimer. "We're not planning for the future—and don't read anything into that, either."

Each quarterback has reserved a small spot in his psyche to accommodate the possibility of losing the battle. "I came back to the NFL to experience winning a Super Bowl," says Flutie, who played with the Chicago Bears and New England Patriots from 1986 through '89. "If that means Drew Brees pulls the trigger and I come off the bench to help us, so be it. I can live with that because I respect his work ethic."

Flutie says, "Obviously the guy who has more at stake is Doug. His time is more precious than mine. I want this job, but if I don't get it, I can tell myself I've got a lot more years."

They finished a seven-on-seven passing drill last week and trailed behind their teammates in jogging across the field to the next station. Flutie pointed to a yellow stripe on a wall at the base of a video tower and then drilled it with a tight spiral. Brees did the same. All in fun for now. Soon, one man plays and the other sits. That will be an entirely different game. □

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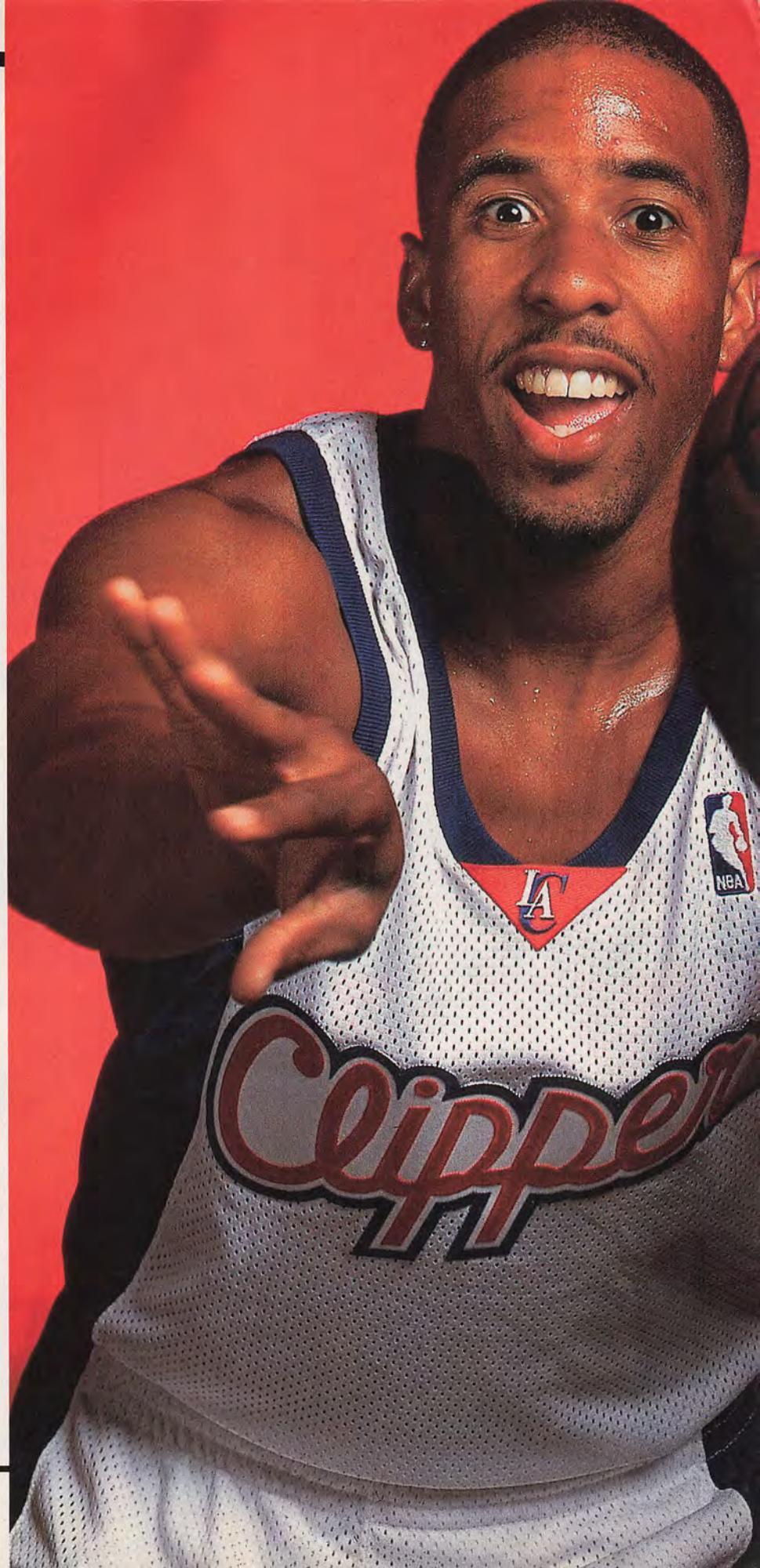


LAST SUMMER the New Jersey Nets, after a quarter-century of bad luck and ridicule, traded for point guard Jason Kidd, who steered the team to the NBA Finals. Last week the Los Angeles Clippers, hoping to shed their hard-earned reputation as America's most inept sports franchise, produced a sequel to that move: They acquired the league's reigning assists leader, point guard Andre Miller, from the Cleveland Cavaliers. "On paper we're as talented as any team," says general manager Elgin Baylor. "Andre was the one piece we were missing."

So loaded is his roster that Baylor could afford to give up in the deal electrifying forward Darius Miles, the No. 3 pick of the 2000 draft. True, the Miller-led Clippers will have a harder time making headway in the Western Conference than Kidd & Co. did in the wide-open East—and a still harder time getting their owner, Donald Sterling, to pay the price to keep his wealth of burgeoning talent together. But the switch from last year's point guard, Jeff McInnis, to Miller should vault Los Angeles into the middle of the playoff pack.

To watch the 6' 2", 200-pound Miller, who will be entering his fourth NBA season, is to witness a clinic in old-fashioned floor leadership: He makes the easy play, rarely leaves his feet to make a pass and always has his head in the game. At 26 he is among the 12 players chosen to represent the U.S. in the World Championships at Indianapolis later this month. Last season he became the second player since 1980-81 to lead the NBA in assists (10.9 per game) for a losing team. Though he's effective posting up and deadly inside 15 feet—"Andre's so strong it's almost impossible to guard him in the paint," says Cavs coach John Lucas—looking for his own shot has never been Miller's M.O. But the demands were often excessive in Cleveland, especially last year, when injuries left Miller without a reliable backup for the final 33 games.

The load won't be nearly as taxing in L.A. Spelling Miller will be 6' 7" Marko Jaric, a second-round steal by Baylor in 2000, who joins the Clippers after emerging as the top point guard in Europe last season. Swingmen Quentin Richardson (who will likely



DISH ABILITY Miller's floor leadership and pass-first approach are just what L.A. needs.



start at shooting guard), Corey Maggette and Eric Piatkowski complement a formidable front line of center Michael Olowokandi and forwards Elton Brand and Lamar Odom. The soft-spoken Miller's task is to bring order to a rotation that is likely to include only two players (Piatkowski, 31, and backup center Sean Rooks, 32) with more than four years of NBA experience. Last year the infant Clippers won 39 games—their best finish since 1992–93—and, by coach Alvin Gentry's count, they could have won 10 more if they'd avoided last-minute breakdowns. "We're very athletic but sometimes kind of loose," says Miller. "I'm just going to try to bring a hard-work mentality. If I lead by example rather than by running my mouth, I'll get respect."

He will have to be firm, because unity could be hard to come by in the Los Angeles locker room. Teammates are waiting to see how the miserly Sterling handles negotiations this summer with Brand, an All-Star power forward who's seeking an extension, and with the 7-foot Olowokandi, a restricted free agent entering his fifth year. Olowokandi's agent, Bill Duffy, is seeking a maximum contract: seven years, \$102 million. If the team comes up short, Duffy says Olowokandi will sign a one-year qualifying offer of \$6.1 million (which would be the highest salary ever paid a

on purpose, fearing that if the Clippers became contenders, he would be under more pressure to pony up the big bucks to keep the team intact. That conjecture was silenced, at least for the moment, by the acquisition of Miller on July 30. "I feel confident that we'll get Michael and Elton signed," Gentry says. "Otherwise it will be tough to go into the season with our five starters each playing for a contract." (Sterling would not comment on the negotiations.)

"We have a lot of talent, and we'll be able to do something with it," Miller says, "if we can learn to play with each other without all the talk about whose contract is up."

Miller appreciates the delicate nature of contract negotiations. At the end of last season his agent, Lon Babby, asked Cleveland to trade him. Babby argued that Miller was worthy of the maximum starting in 2003–04, but he also agreed with Cavaliers G.M. Jim Paxson that such a weighty deal would bloat the Cleveland payroll and make it almost impossible to improve the team around Miller. "So we felt it would be in the best interests of everybody if the team tried to trade Andre," Babby says.

In the end the Cavs and the Clippers agreed on a swap that made both teams happy. The 20-year-old Miles, who was able to earn only 27.2 minutes per game in L.A. in '01–02, will benefit from more playing

By snaring assist king Andre Miller to play the point, the hapless Clippers hope to duplicate the Nets' stunning turnaround with Jason Kidd

New Kidd On the Block

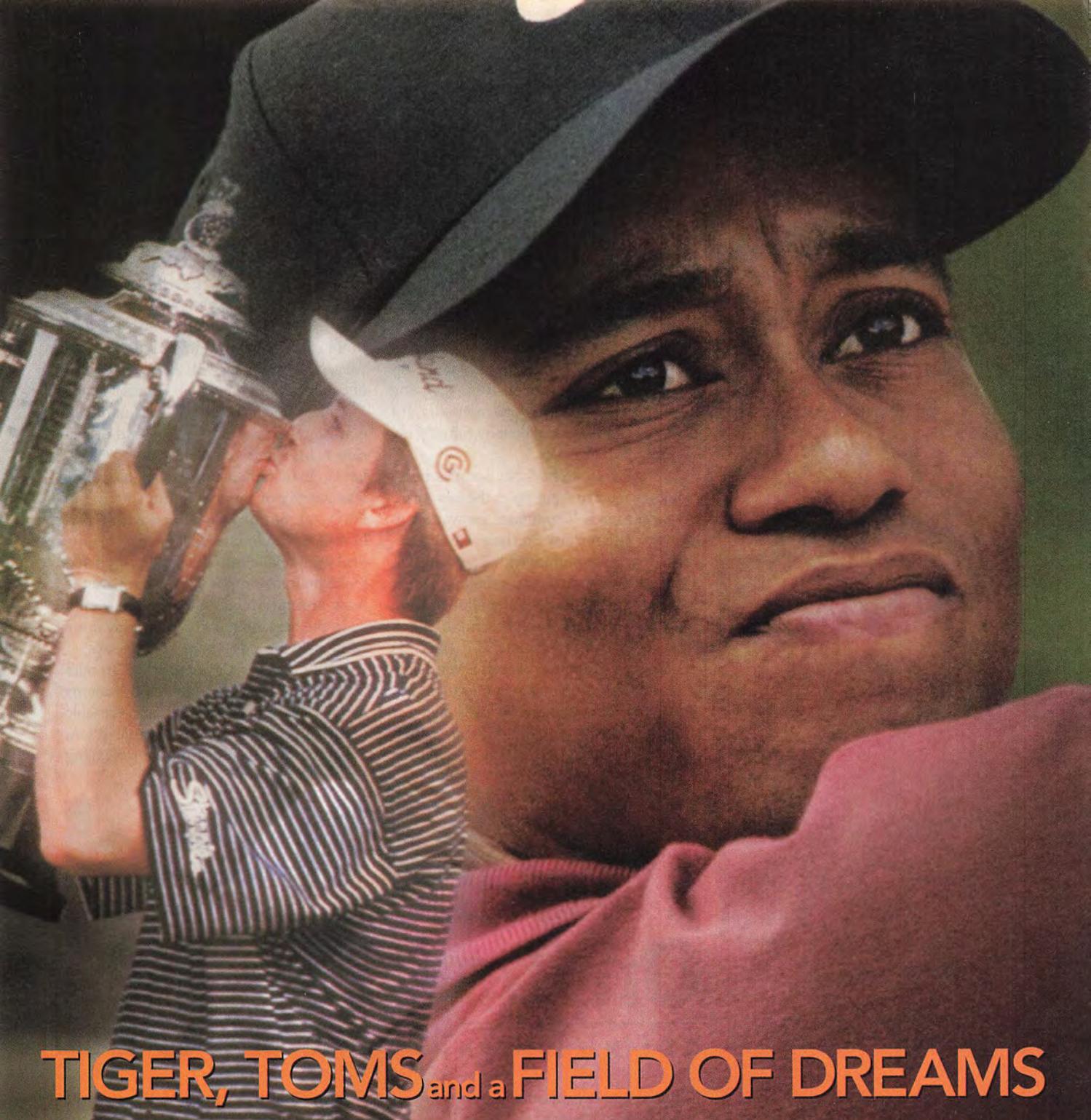
BY IAN THOMSEN

Clipper) and take his chances on the open market next summer.

Despite having only one winning season in 21 years of ownership, Sterling has famously refused to loosen the purse strings; the payroll was so puny (\$35 million) in 2001–02 that L.A. was in danger of failing to meet the league's minimum of \$31.9 million. When Sterling scuttled a draft-night trade for Miller that would have sent Odom and the No. 8 pick to Cleveland (SI, July 8), some in the NBA speculated that he did so

time in Cleveland and is talking about jumping to stardom, Tracy McGrady-like, in his third season after coming out of high school. In fact, at this point the Cavs seem more likely to re-sign Miles to a long-term deal than the Clippers are to retain Miller, a Los Angeles native.

Until they prove otherwise, the Clippers appear to be living with the paradoxical decision to acquire young players for the short term. Yet with Miller at the helm, that short term might be very sweet. □



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The number of consecutive years the PGA Championship has featured the strongest field in all of golf. The 2001 PGA Championship holds the all-time record with 95 of the top 100 players competing.

402



The number of yards the leaders will have to traverse on the challenging 16th hole at Hazeltine National Golf Club, site of the 84th PGA Championship. This will be the most watched hole since the tee shot must carry Lake Hazeltine and the approach is to a peninsula green. No. 16 has been a pivotal hole in previous championships.

265

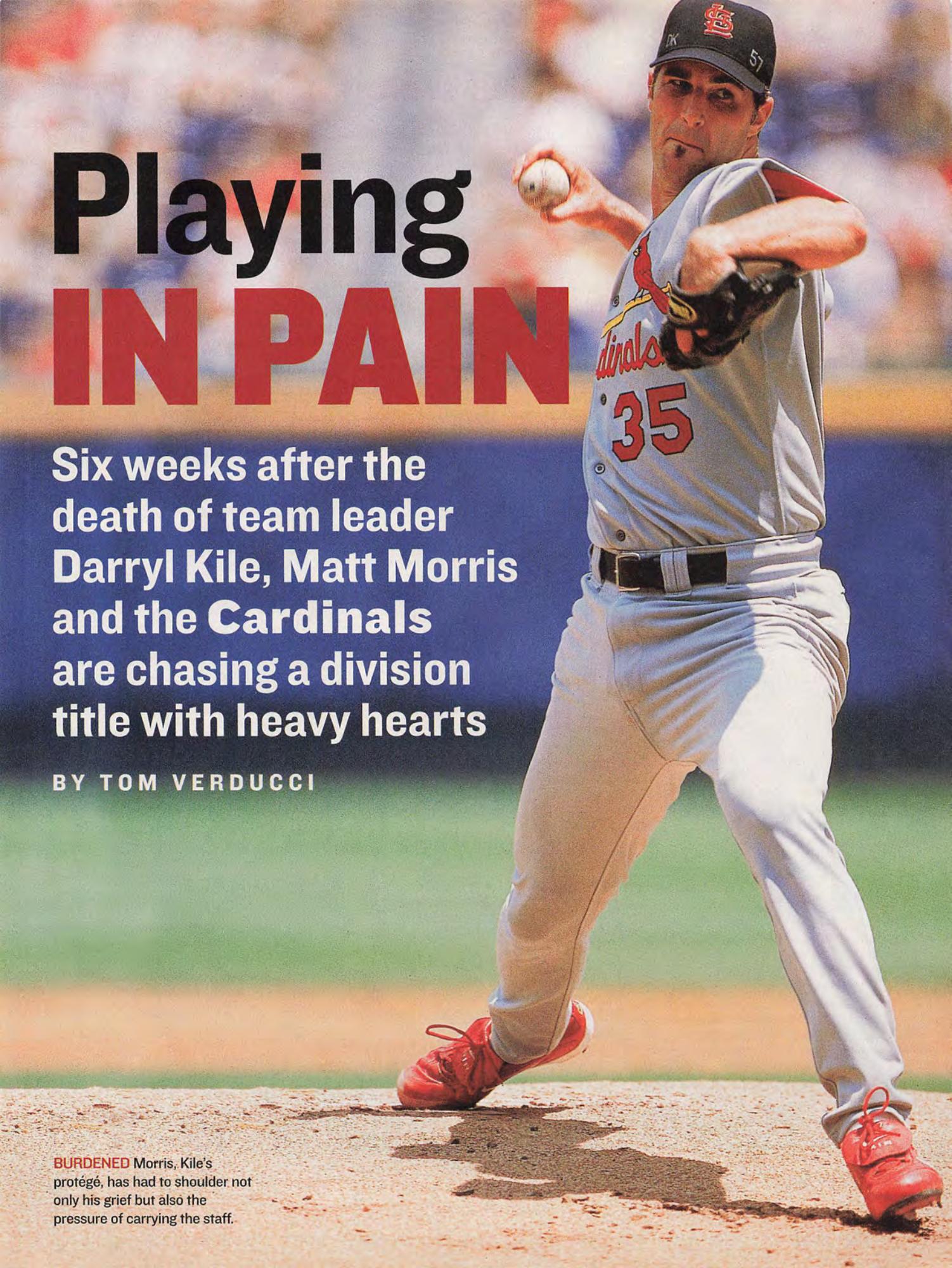
David Toms' record-breaking 72-hole score for a PGA Championship. On the final hole of the 2001 PGA Championship, with his drive landing in the rough, David Toms faced a vital decision, challenge the water or go directly at the green. He wisely chose to lay up onto the fairway then hit a wedge to the green where he sank his putt for the victory. Toms showed the kind of intelligent, deliberate strategy needed to win against the strongest field ever assembled in a major championship. Following the victory, Toms said: "The PGA of America means a lot to me, and I remember how well PGA Professionals have helped me through my career and still do today."



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Playing **IN PAIN**



Six weeks after the death of team leader Darryl Kile, Matt Morris and the Cardinals are chasing a division title with heavy hearts

BY TOM VERDUCCI

BURDENED Morris, Kile's protégé, has had to shoulder not only his grief but also the pressure of carrying the staff.

THE JERSEY, uniform pants, undershirt and warmup jacket of deceased St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Darryl Kile are still in his locker in the home clubhouse at Busch Stadium. His polished red spikes are still there too. The locker is as he left it before his death on June 22, except for some personal effects that were sent home to his widow, Flynn, and three children, and a memorial plaque affixed to the top of it that reads DARRYL KILE, 1968–2002, HUSBAND, FATHER, TEAMMATE AND FRIEND.

Reminders of Kile's passing are never far from the Cardinals, be they his preserved locker, the black circles reading DK 57 sewn on their right uniform sleeves or the 57 written in indelible marker on their caps. Pitcher Matt Morris, for whom Kile was a mentor over the past three seasons, telephones Flynn every week or so. "I wind up sobbing, and then she winds up sobbing," Morris said last Saturday, after the Braves beat him 6–1 in Atlanta, "so I'm not sure how much help I am. But sometimes we all need a shoulder to cry on. I know I do."

"Lately I've been trying to think about all the good stuff, some of the fun times. The thoughts always pop up at weird times. Anytime. Anyplace. During a game. When you go to lunch before a night game and he's not there. When you go to dinner after a day game. Hanging out in the [hotel] room. It's everywhere. There's a missing piece right now, and you can feel it."

Saturday's defeat, too, lingered as yet another reminder of Kile's passing. It wasn't just that Morris, on a day when he brought an electric fastball and a sharp curveball to the mound, had failed to follow his teacher's wisdom when he grooved two first-pitch fastballs to Chipper Jones, who crushed both for two-run home runs. "Meatballs," Morris called the pitches. "DK always told me that the days you feel good physically are the days you have to concentrate the hardest. He said those are the days you have a chance to do something

special. I didn't do that." More ominously, the defeat also brought Kile to mind because it underscored how a depleted St. Louis rotation has placed a greater burden on Morris and jeopardized the team's grip on first place in the National League Central, a standing it has maintained since Kile won his final start, on June 18.

With a 2–1 loss on Sunday night the Cardinals fell to 1–5 against Atlanta this season and matched their season-worst losing streak of five games as they tried to stay ahead of the Cincinnati Reds (two games out) and the Houston Astros (three games

after all they've been through, there's that prize at the end of the year."

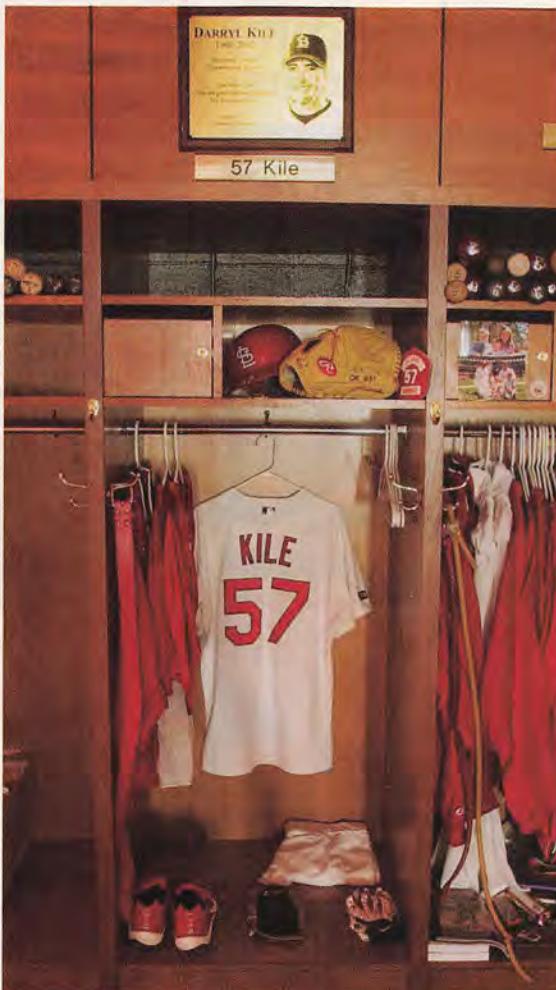
To get to October the Cardinals are putting their faith in a favorable schedule and a return to health of pitcher Woody Williams. St. Louis was scheduled to play only 16 of its final 52 games against teams with a winning record through Sunday—with just seven of those games on the road (three in Cincinnati and four in Houston). The Cardinals finish the season with a 10-game home stand. Williams, who is expected to return this month from a strained muscle in his side, is 13–4 in 23 starts for St. Louis since he was acquired from the San Diego Padres last August for outfielder Ray Lankford. In his six big league seasons Williams is 15–8 in September and October. "Woody is huge for us," La Russa says.

La Russa has juggled a National League-high 13 starting pitchers this season, an improvisation so frenetic that through Sunday, only Morris (12–7, 3.44) had thrown more innings for the Cardinals than Kile's 84%. Of the team's six top starters entering the spring, only Morris remained in the rotation last week. Williams, Garrett Stephenson (hamstring surgery) and Rick Ankiel (left elbow tendinitis) were out with injuries, and an ineffective Bud Smith was shipped to the Philadelphia Phillies in the July 29 trade for third baseman Scott Rolen.

Lefthander Chuck Finley, 39, won two of his first three starts after arriving in a July 19 trade with the Cleveland Indians, but the rest of the rotation was suspect, particularly without the reliable Kile, who averaged 15 wins and 226 innings from 1996 through 2001 with Houston, the Colorado Rockies and St. Louis. Gimpy-kneed Andy Benes, 34, who nearly retired in April, was a wobbly stopgap measure, and rookies Travis Smith and Jason Simontacchi struggled. Smith was optioned to Triple A Memphis after 10 starts and a 7.17 ERA. Simontacchi, a former Italian Olympian, slumped

badly after a surprising 7–1 start. Including an 11–5 pasting last Friday in Atlanta, he was 0–2 with an 8.22 ERA in five starts since the All-Star break.

Stephenson, like Williams, could return to the rotation by mid-August. Morris has resisted the notion that he must carry the



UNTOUCHABLE Kile's locker at Busch Stadium remains much as he left it, save for the plaque that hangs above it.

back). At week's end St. Louis was 19–18 since Kile's death; while the Cards had maintained their lead over the Reds, the Astros, 25–12 over that span, had pulled six games closer.

"This club is so, so special," says manager Tony La Russa. "I really hope that

staff in the meantime. "It's been the same question since DK passed away," Morris says. "I'm just trying to go out there and get outs. What does putting more pressure on yourself mean? That you're trying to win? I try to do that anyway."

The Cards were 11-5 in Morris's starts before Kile's death. They were 4-4 in his starts since that dreadful day in Chicago, which came only four days after the death of beloved broadcaster Jack Buck, 77. The

"Andy," La Russa said, "my team is in no condition to play. Go look at them."

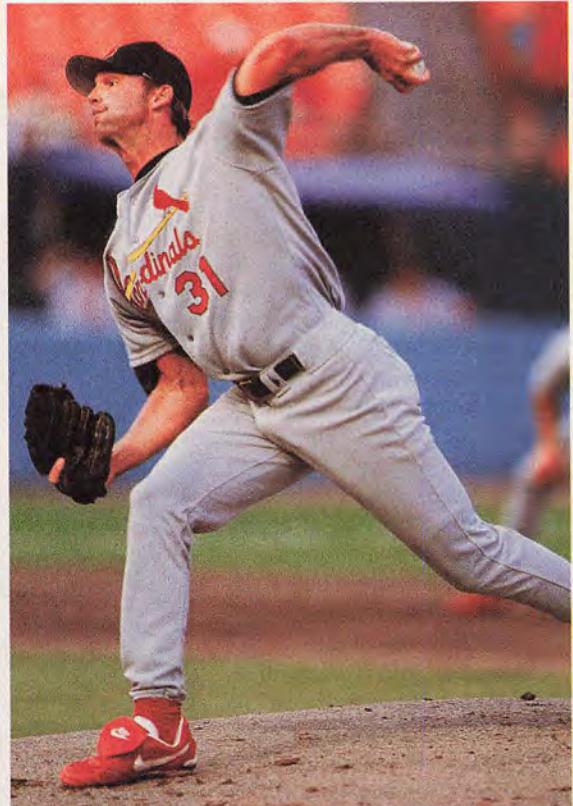
MacPhail walked down the short hallway into the clubhouse, where players were weeping and shaking their heads in disbelief. MacPhail turned around and reentered La Russa's office. "You're right," he said. "There's no way."

Among the most shaken players was Morris, who blossomed into a 22-game winner last year with the help of Kile, be-

and said, "Don't worry about it. That was a tough line drive. Next time you'll do it."

St. Louis lost five of seven games immediately after Kile's death. "Those first games were really tough," first baseman Tino Martinez says. "We were going through the motions. We came in, put on our uniforms, went out and played, and whatever happened, happened. We didn't really care. But then we hit a certain point where we had to find a way to have fun playing baseball again."

Of the Cardinals' six top starting pitchers entering the spring, only Morris remains in the rotation.



SHUFFLING THE CARDS Jocketty, as usual, improved his hand with the July acquisitions of Finley (above), who started off strong, and Rolen, who did not.

players learned about Kile's death from La Russa, who broke the news to them in the visiting clubhouse at Wrigley Field about 30 minutes before they were scheduled to play the Cubs. At the time La Russa knew only that Kile had been found dead in his hotel room. (An autopsy later determined that he died from acute hardening of the arteries around his heart.) After telling the players, the shaken manager retreated to his tiny office. Then Cubs team president Andy MacPhail suddenly walked in.

"What are we going to do about the game?" MacPhail asked. "It's a national TV game. There are a lot of people in the stands."

coming the franchise's biggest winner since Bob Gibson. In the week following Kile's death a mournful Morris lost 20 pounds. "After that you forget about all the little things—like eating," says Morris, who has since regained the weight.

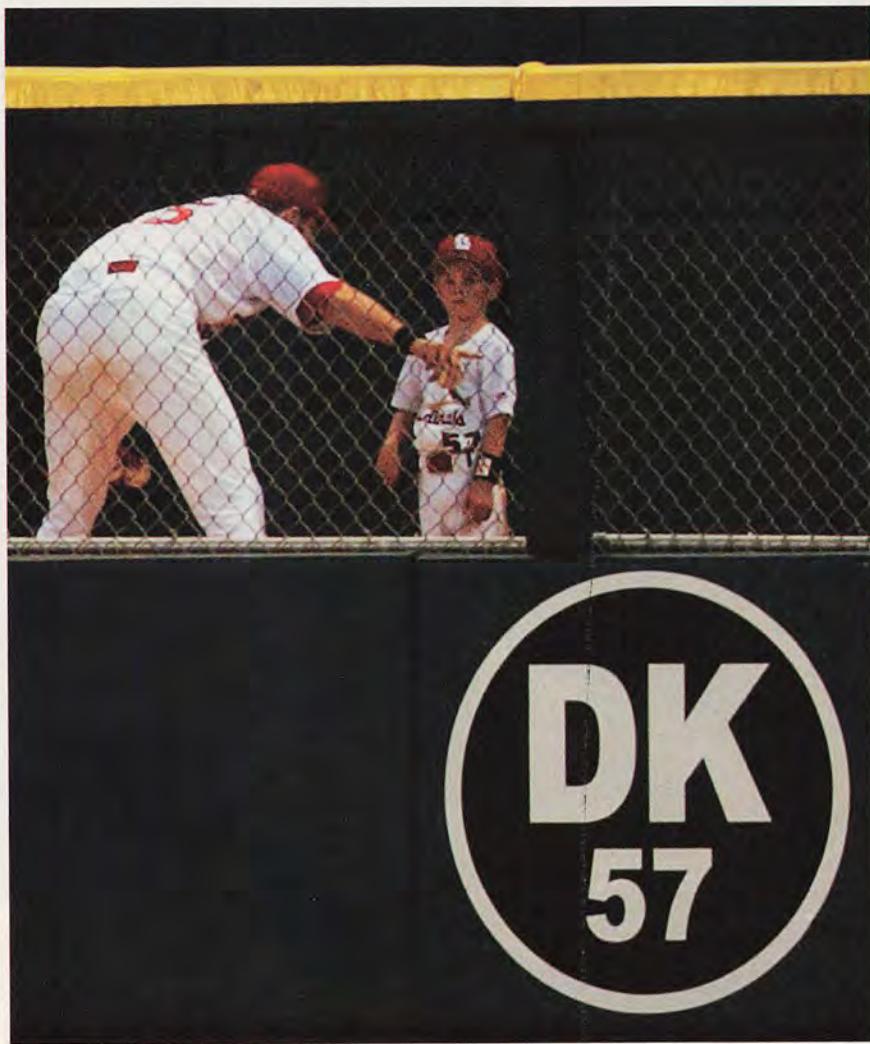
Kile was not only a reliable pitcher but also a respected teammate who regularly counseled young players. "He wasn't the kind of leader who spoke up just to hear the sound of his voice," outfielder Albert Pujols says. "He was a quiet leader who would take players aside and help them. I remember this year in Seattle, I made a mistake in the outfield. He came up to me

On July 28 the Cardinals scored six runs in the ninth inning to stun the Cubs 10-9. "That was the first time I saw them really enjoy themselves again," La Russa says. The next day, while flying to Florida, many of them erupted with shouts of joy upon hearing that St. Louis had obtained Rolen, the All-Star third baseman who was bent on leaving Philadelphia as a free agent after the season. Cardinals general manager Walt Jocketty, burnishing his reputation as a shrewd trader, made the deal without disturbing the core of the team or yielding a premium prospect. In addition to Bud Smith, a slight and soft-tossing lefty, he gave up Placido



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After Kile's death, says Martinez, the Cards "hit a point where we had to find a way to have fun playing baseball again."

Polanco, a utility player with little power, and Mike Timlin, a journeyman reliever.

Since 1997 Jocketty has traded for Mark McGwire, Edgar Renteria, Kile, Fernando Viña, Jim Edmonds, Will Clark, Williams and Rolen without giving up a frontline player. (The best of the departed bunch are Anaheim Angels second baseman Adam Kennedy and Rockies closer Jose Jimenez.) McGwire, Renteria, Kile, Viña and Edmonds all signed contract extensions to stay in St. Louis after their trades, largely be-

cause of the team's famed fan support and its pronounced commitment to staying competitive. The Cardinals figure Rolen will want to stay too.

"Let the fans in St. Louis do their magic," Jocketty says, alluding to the enormous ovations they gave McGwire upon his arrival in 1997. Forgoing free agency, McGwire signed six weeks after his trade from the Oakland A's.

Rolen doesn't appear to be a tough sell. As a child he watched Cardinals games from the upper deck of Busch Stadium with his parents, who drove three hours from their home in Jasper, Ind. "The people there are so excited, I bet they could make it in

Read more baseball from Tom Verducci every Tuesday in his exclusive online column at cnn.com/baseball.

two hours now," Rolen says. His parents, who now live in Bradenton, Fla., drove a mobile home to the weekend series in Atlanta and planned to continue to St. Louis to see his home debut on Tuesday.

"Even if I had finished out the year in Philadelphia, this would have been first or second on my list," Rolen says of St. Louis. "I don't think there's a better place to play. The support is great and they're committed to winning, and that's what I'm looking for. If they want to talk to me about a contract, I'm more than willing to listen."

Rolen banged out four hits in his first eight at bats with the Cardinals, then fell into an 0-for-15 funk. "Nobody's putting any extra pressure on me," he says. "I know that. But it's human nature to put a little pressure on yourself to show everybody with a new team what you can do. I'm guilty of that."

St. Louis wore the look of a weary team last week. Sunday's game ended a 23-day span in which the Cardinals had played only five games at home. In one stretch of their losing streak they did not have a lead

MEMENTO As Morris (with Kannon Kile, 5) and the Cards go about their work, their teammate's memory is always close at hand.

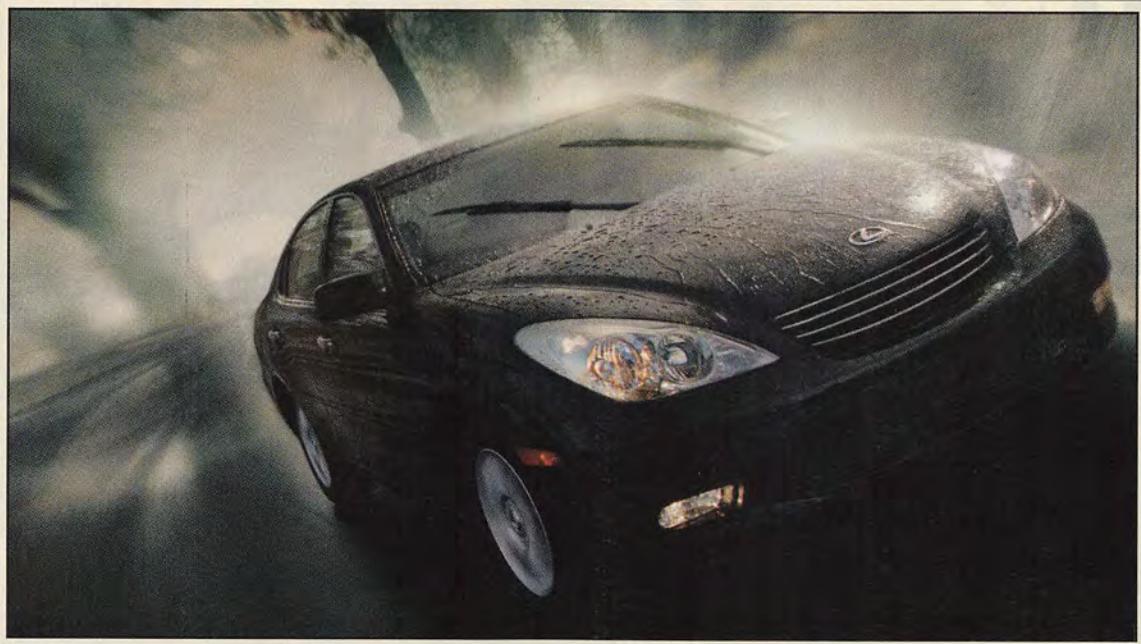


for 38 consecutive innings. Before Saturday's loss several St. Louis players sniped at one another about the choice of music playing on the clubhouse stereo before somebody snapped it off.

A healthy pitcher or two—particularly the battle-tested Williams—or an outside acquisition such as the Kansas City Royals' Paul Byrd would be the shot in the arm that the Cardinals need, but as far as Morris is concerned, no one can fill Kile's shoes.

"You can't take the place of somebody like that," Morris says. "We can make a trade, and somebody could come in here and go undefeated. And you know what? He still won't replace Darryl Kile." □

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Way back in the late nineteenth century, Jules Verne, that master of science fiction, foresaw many of the technological wonders that are commonplace today. Yet, as far-reaching as Mr. Verne's imagination was, even he would be amazed at the many marvels there are to be found in the Lexus ES 300.

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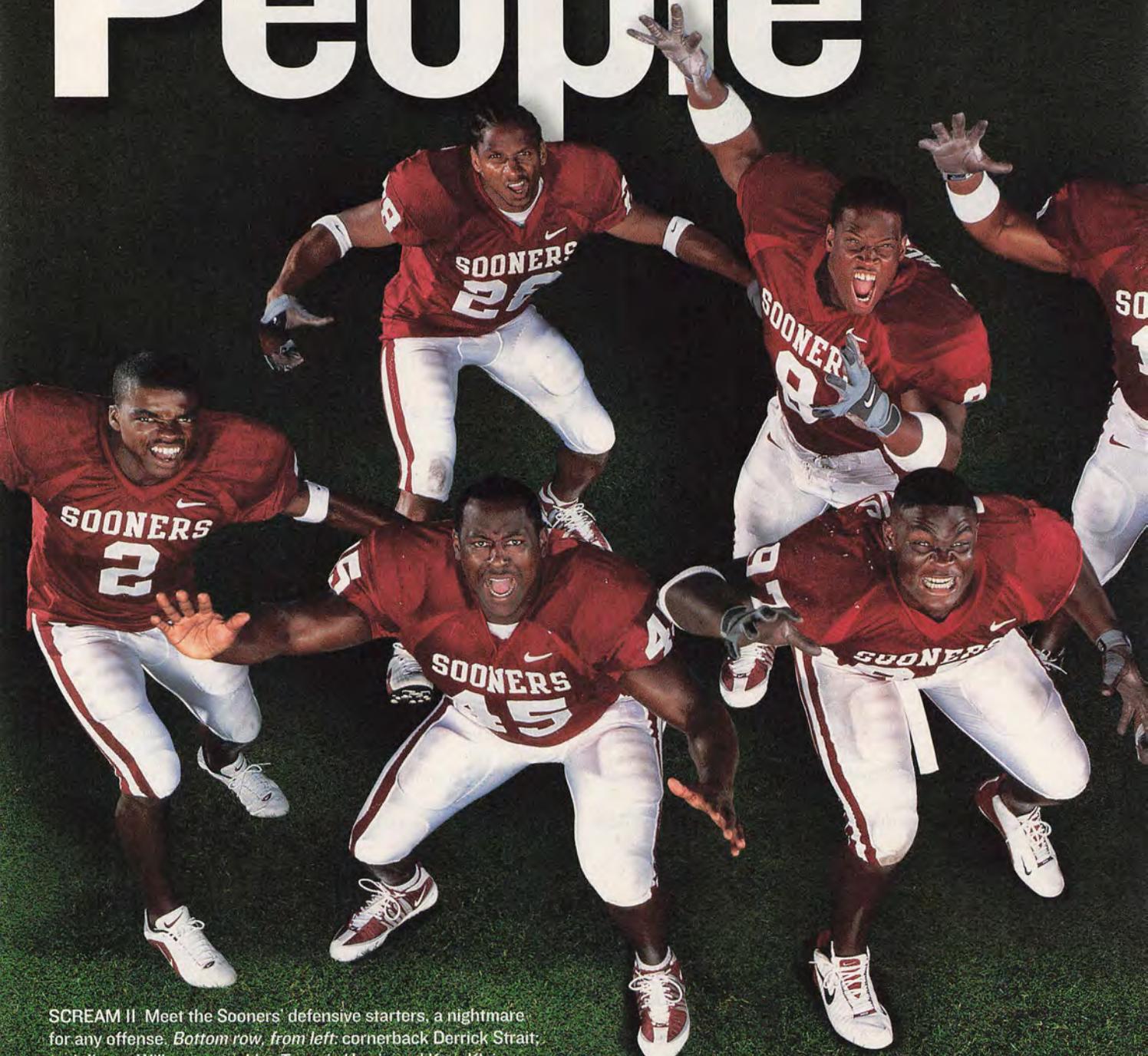
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The PILLAGE People



SCREAM II Meet the Sooners' defensive starters, a nightmare for any offense. *Bottom row, from left:* cornerback Derrick Strait; end Jimmy Wilkerson; tackles Tommie Harris and Kory Klein; end Jonathan Jackson; cornerback Andre Woolfolk. *Top row, from left:* safety Antonio Perkins; linebackers Pasha Jackson, Lance Mitchell and Teddy Lehman; safety Brandon Everage.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL 2002

Oklahoma has constructed the most devastating defense in the country, a scary assemblage of superathletes ready to take the national title

BY KELLEY KING PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL J. LEBRECHT II



HUNKERED DOWN in an ice bath in the Oklahoma training room, sophomore defensive tackle Tommie Harris was stewing. Earlier on this June afternoon, instead of running sprints with his fellow linemen, Harris had joined the running backs in their heats, pushing himself into a full-body cramp as a result. It's hard to believe that so massive a person could keep up with a Sooners tailback, but the 6' 3", 289-pound Harris had been the one forcing the pace—until he seized up at the end of the workout. "At Oklahoma the fastest guys on the team run together, no matter what their position," said Harris, his scowl deepening. "A few of us big guys can keep up, so we challenge ourselves."

Deceptively nimble for his size, Harris can overpower or run down practically anyone on the other side of the ball. Indeed, the Sooners, the 2000 national champions and No. 6 in last year's final rankings, have assembled a frightening array of such athletes on defense. When a scheme calls for extra speed off the edge, Harris, who runs the 40 in 4.67, will slide from defensive tackle to end. So explosive and strong is 6' 4", 265-pound junior Jimmy Wilkerson that he was moved from linebacker to defensive end before last season. Then there's 6' 1", 195-pound senior Andre Woolfolk, a human heat-seeking missile who worked double shifts at wide receiver and cornerback for two seasons before being assigned to the defense full time. At least four other Oklahoma defensive players have All-America ability at more than one position—"and some of them," says co-defensive coordinator Mike Stoops, "are fighting for starting jobs."

When it comes to exploiting sheer athleticism, Sooners coach Bob Stoops, Mike's older brother, has been putting on a clinic. When he arrived in Norman in 2000, after seven years as defensive coordinator at Kansas State and Florida, Oklahoma hadn't had a shutout in eight seasons. In Stoops's first year his defense held Florida State's mighty attack scoreless in the national championship game, and Seminoles coach Bobby Bowden called it the best D he'd ever seen. Last year, en route to an 11–2 record, the Sooners finished fourth in the country in total defense, holding four teams to three points or fewer and allowing just 262.8 yards per game.

Much of the credit for that success goes to the swarming, zone-blitzing schemes Bob Stoops installed to counter the rise of the spread offense, which replaces tight ends and the fullback with as many as five wideouts in both short- and long-yardage situations. Those defensive sets require athletes who can match up with the overflow of skill-position players on offense. "To succeed against the one- and no-back sets you need to have a defense that's equally flexible," says Brent Venables, who shares defensive coordinator responsibilities with the younger Stoops. "Because we'll almost always use five different fronts in one game and zone-blitz a ton, the idea is to have players on the field who can adapt to any situation. Defensive backs need to be able to come up and stop the run, and linemen have to be able to drop back and defend the pass. Surprise is our counter-weapon."

For the past two seasons counter-weapon No. 1 was safety Roy Williams, the 6' 1", 215-pound bundle of fast-twitch muscles whom Stoops called upon to blitz like a linebacker or cover like a corner, depending on the play. Williams's all-encompassing ability earned him the 2001 Nagurski Award as the nation's best defensive player and a job with the Dallas Cowboys, who made him the eighth pick in April's draft. For any other team the departure of Williams, who declared early for the draft, and Rocky Calmus, who was voted the nation's top linebacker before being drafted by the Tennessee Titans, would be cause for alarm. Instead, Oklahoma's defense, which includes seven returning full-time starters and only one senior, in Woolfolk, appears more loaded than ever. Says Bob Stoops, "When you're running your program correctly, you've got young players in the wings who are dying to take over for the great ones."

Texas Tech receivers coach Sonny Dykes says strategy sessions before Sooners games can run well into the night. "We go into every game looking for matchups where the other team is weak, but it's hard to find them with Oklahoma," he says. "For instance, they'll let you throw underneath all you want, because they know they can get to the ball and make the tackle. They have so many versatile players who can do so many things."

One attribute common to all Oklahoma defensive players is the ability to move at the breakneck clip required by the team's ambush approach. In defiance of the prevailing notion that speed comes out

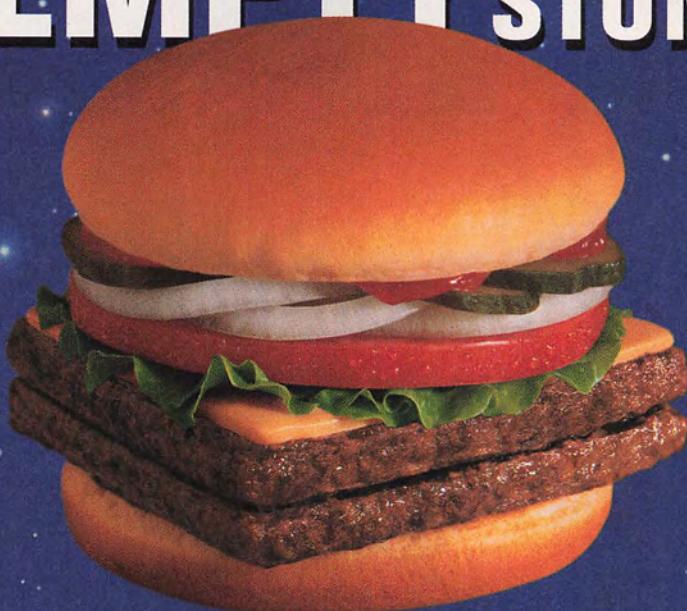
THREE D'S

As co-defensive coordinator at Kansas State (with Jim Leavitt, now coach at South Florida), defensive coordinator at Florida and coach at Oklahoma, Bob Stoops has built three of college football's best defenses. Here's how those units improved under him.



SCHOOL	SEASON	YARDS PER GAME (NATIONAL RANK)	POINTS PER GAME (NATIONAL RANK)
KANSAS STATE	1991	351.4 (54)	20.5 (44)
	1992	341.5 (42)	21.2 (46)
	1993	343.6 (35)	18.1 (28)
	1994	312.6 (23)	14.2 (5)
	1995	250.8 (1)	13.2 (2)
FLORIDA	1996	281.1 (14)	16.8 (15)
	1997	290.5 (12)	18.1 (19)
	1998	286.6 (9)	14.1 (8)
OKLAHOMA	1999	344.4 (39)	18.4 (16)
	2000	278.9 (8)	16.0 (7)
	2001	262.8 (4)	13.8 (4)

WHO CAN ENJOY A
FULL MOON
ON AN **EMPTY STOMACH?**



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OKLAHOMA DEFENSE





of Florida, all but one of the Sooners' projected defensive starters hail from Oklahoma or Texas. (The exception is Woolfolk, from Denver, who was recruited by the previous coaching staff.) Believing a player can easily bulk up after he arrives on campus, the Sooners will embrace a rangy schoolboy who has exceptional quickness and agility, as long as he has the frame that can hold the added muscle supplied with the help of the team's weight program.

When scoping talent, Oklahoma coaches have little use for the complex statistical analyses devised by recruiting services. They'd rather know whether a prospect excels at multiple positions or in multiple sports, evidence of wider athletic ability. "We recruit athletes, not position players," says Mike Stoops. "The first thing we look for is speed, and I'm not talking about high school 40 times, which are bulls---. We're looking for catch-up speed and the ability to change direction on a dime. You can usually judge by a tape whether a kid can keep up with our defense."

It took watching all of three plays on grainy video for the Sooners' staff to conclude that Harris was worthy. "He had the quickest feet for a big kid we'd ever seen," says Mike Stoops. While nearly every major college in the country wanted Harris, who was drawing comparisons to Warren Sapp while picking apart high school offenses in Killeen, Texas, the Stoops brothers scored with the same promise they've been delivering in other Dust Bowl living rooms: We're not running a country club, but the guy who makes the best plays consistently will get the snaps. Harris took heart that seven true freshmen saw playing time during Oklahoma's national championship run. "I got the feeling that there were no games with the guy," says Harris of Bob Stoops. "The best athletes play."

Harris's strength and speed were shockingly apparent on the day the freshmen joined 2001 preseason workouts. "Tommie was so much more physically mature than the other guys his age," says Woolfolk. "Just standing around, he looked imposing." Later that afternoon Harris bench-pressed 315 pounds in a set of 15 reps, a number that he bumped to 21 within weeks. He then became the first true freshman

SWARM FRONT "On every down it's first-come, first-served," says Harris (97). "It's like we're all after a piece of meat out there."

BOB ROSATO

THE TERMINATORS

The Sooners aren't the only team with defensive players boasting otherworldly combinations of speed, strength and athleticism. A slew of players have arisen who can single-handedly kill off drives and wreak havoc on game plans. Who'll be this year's LaVar Arrington or Roy Williams? Here are five dominant defenders who don't wear Oklahoma crimson.



BOSS BAILEY, LINEBACKER GEORGIA, SENIOR

THE NUMBERS: 6' 4", 218; 152 career tackles, including 65 last year; possesses freakish 46-inch vertical leap.

THE QUOTE: "He's a physical linebacker who has the ability to play like a defensive back," says Ole Miss coach David Cutcliffe. "Anything that anybody says about him is true—he's that good."

DEWAYNE WHITE, END LOUISVILLE, SENIOR

THE NUMBERS: 6' 3", 277; 15 sacks, second in nation, 27 tackles for loss (seventh); Conference USA defensive player of the year.

THE QUOTE: "He's an instinctive player," says Southern Miss coach Jeff Bower. "Coupled with his athleticism, speed and toughness, that's what makes him dominant. He uses a little of everything—quickness, speed and strength—to get to the quarterback."



since Marcus Lowe in 1987 to start on the Sooners' interior line.

Harris, who has been used primarily at tackle to stop the first-down run or thwart the quick pass, liked the flexibility afforded him by Oklahoma's swarming style. "It's so fun to play in our defense," he says. "Every man has his own gap, and on every down it's first-come, first-served. It's like we're all after a piece of meat out there." By the end of his first season Harris had a team-best 17 tackles for loss, as well as 14 quarterback hurries. Conference coaches named him the Big 12's best freshman defensive player.

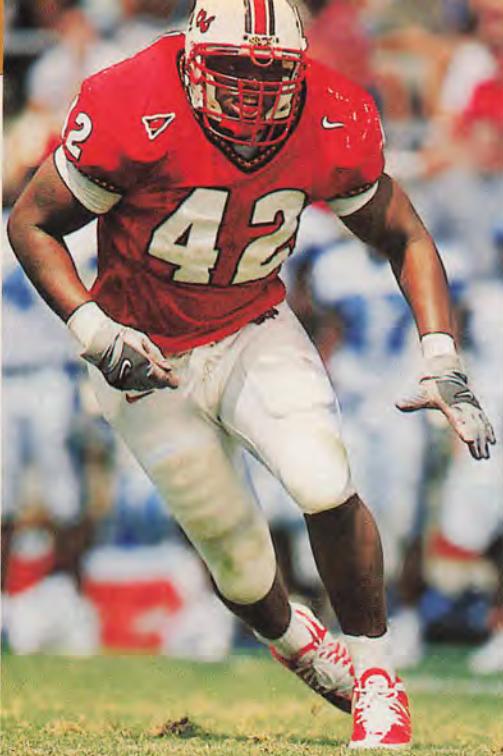
Wilkerson was an option quarterback and dominating linebacker from Omaha, Texas, who in high school had 1,209 passing yards and 1,430 rushing yards, plus 111 tackles as a senior. He signed with the Sooners to play linebacker and wound up as one of three true freshmen to see time on defense for the national champions. In preparing for the title game against Florida State, the staff realized it needed extra speed on the pass rush and threw Wilkerson into the practice rotation at defensive end. Despite just a few drills' worth of experience, he played as if he were born to the position, producing three tackles, a pass deflection and two quarterback pressures against the Seminoles.

In addition to having the strength to bench well over 400 pounds and the catch-up speed of a defensive back, Wilkerson intimidates quarterbacks with his sharp reflexes and long limbs. Just ask Texas's

Chris Simms, whom he sacked three times in Oklahoma's 14-3 win last year. Operating mostly on innate ability in his first full year on the line, Wilkerson produced 18 tackles for loss and five sacks in 2001. "Jimmy had no idea what he was doing out there last year," says Harris, "and he couldn't help but be awesome."

One of the biggest benefits of stockpiling multidimensional athletes is instant depth. When a car accident sidelined cornerback Michael Thompson before the 2001 season, Sooners coaches had to address a shortage of defensive backs, five of whom are required in 70% of Oklahoma's sets. They looked at the opposite side of the ball, where Woolfolk had been making circus catches since he was a redshirt freshman. A few weeks before the start of the season Woolfolk was asked to spend half of practice with the receivers and the other half with the secondary, where he quickly added aggressive tackling to his résumé. Now that his field sense has caught up with his speed, he'll play almost exclusively at corner this season. "Sometimes during a game I'll look over my shoulder just to catch Andre breezing toward the ball," says junior defensive tackle Kory Klein. "He makes the most ridiculous plays look easy."

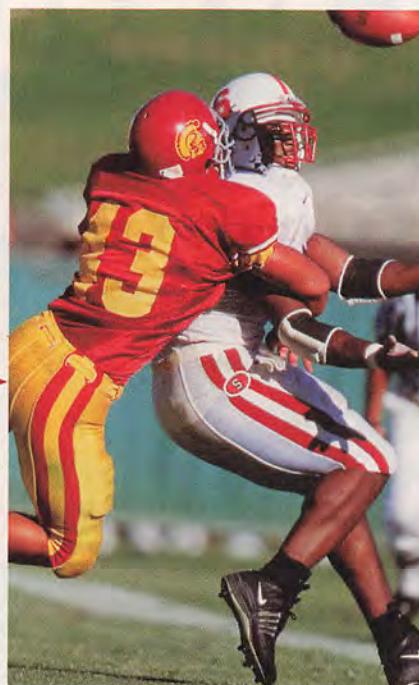
That's a talent shared by Williams's replacement, strong safety Eric Bassey, who may be the next great defensive player to emerge at Oklahoma. The 6' 1", 195-pound redshirt freshman from Garland, Texas—a defensive back, receiver, kick returner and district



◀ **E.J. HENDERSON, LINEBACKER
MARYLAND, SENIOR**

THE NUMBERS: 6' 2", 250; ACC defensive player of the year; 103 solo tackles last year, including a team-record 28 for loss.

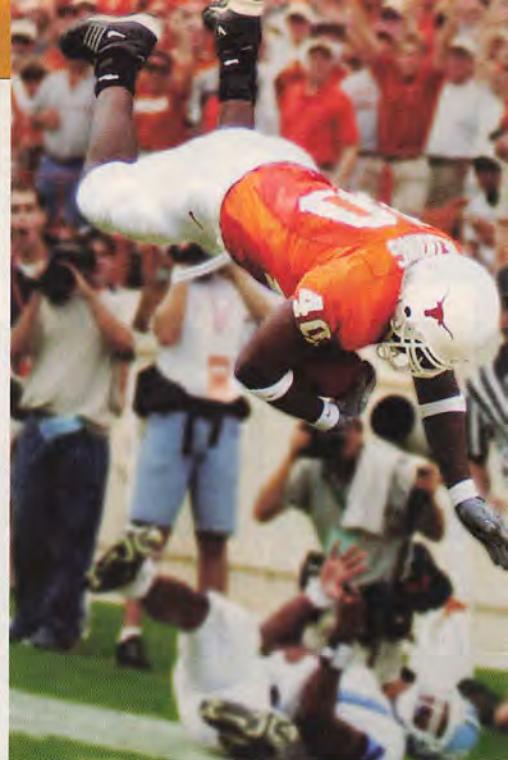
THE QUOTE: "He makes quick reads and pursues from sideline to sideline," says Georgia Tech offensive coordinator Bill O'Brien. "The worst news we got was that he was coming back for his senior year."



**TROY POLAMALU, SAFETY
SOUTHERN CAL, SENIOR**

THE NUMBERS: 5' 10", 215; First All-America DB at USC since '89; 98 tackles, three picks, three blocked punts in '01.

THE QUOTE: "A lot of safeties are strong against the run but not always effective in pass defense," says Arizona coach John Mackovic. "He's physical, arrives quickly and reads the play very well."



▲ **CORY REDDING, END
TEXAS, SENIOR**

THE NUMBERS: 6' 5", 270; 57 tackles, including five sacks and nine other tackles for loss last year; returned one interception for a TD, somersaulting into the end zone.

THE QUOTE: "He has great mobility and excellent pass-rushing skills," says Texas A&M coach R.C. Slocum. "His size and quickness make him special."

champion in the 400 meters in high school—has the same versatility that made Williams such a terror. At 4.32 in the 40, Bassey is the fastest player on the team. "It's a bit of a gamble [putting him in Williams's spot] since Eric's an unknown," says Mike Stoops, "but I believe in his toughness and athletic ability."

The Sooners began working Bassey into the starting rotation even before last season ended. "That was in December, when Roy didn't need any more reps," says Mike Stoops. "Our rebuilding always starts the day after the last regular-season game—we see bowl preparation as 20 extra spring practices." The defense, in particular, has profited from the approach. After beating Arkansas 10–3 in the Cotton Bowl, Harris and company shut out the first-team Oklahoma offense in the spring game in April, suggesting that this fall defense could carry the team back to the national title.

But while natural ability is a prerequisite for Sooners defensive players, the staff will rip into any player who doesn't put his all into conditioning and practice. Players get the message the moment they begin the team's jelly-leg-inducing off-season workout program, in which noseguards are expected to keep up with cornerbacks in early-morning mat drills and wind sprints up a hill adjacent to Memorial Stadium. On a Monday morning in June, players were rotating in precisely timed shifts from the weight room to the practice turf to the dreaded hill. "We emphasize foot-

work and eye-hand stuff more than other teams," says strength and conditioning coach Jerry Schmidt, watching Harris lay into a teammate in a one-on-one, quick-hands punching drill. "We don't have guys dragging telephone poles up the middle of the field."

With seven of its top 11 defenders returning, Oklahoma had the luxury this summer of concentrating on building strength. Schmidt has been asked to push the weights and protein shakes in the months leading up to the Aug. 30 season opener at Tulsa. "It's been mad chaos in the weight room, everyone asking each other how many times they put up 225," says Woolfolk, who has dropped his body fat from 10% to 7% since last season, while increasing his vertical jump to 38. Wilkerson has put on 25 pounds since last summer and lowered his 40 time from 4.67 to 4.61.

"Total strangers have been poking at my arms in the mall or at restaurants lately," says Harris, who has lowered his body fat from 17.5% to 14.9% and added eight pounds of muscle. "But kids have been calling me a monster since the 10th grade. I guess it's a good thing, looking scary."

Good for Oklahoma. For the rest of the country, this house-of-horrors defense will be a nightmare for years to come. □

For a photo gallery of the Oklahoma defense and more preseason college football features, go to cnn.com/football/collge.

Welcome to the **BIG TIME**

Here's what state-of-the-art football looks like at three schools:

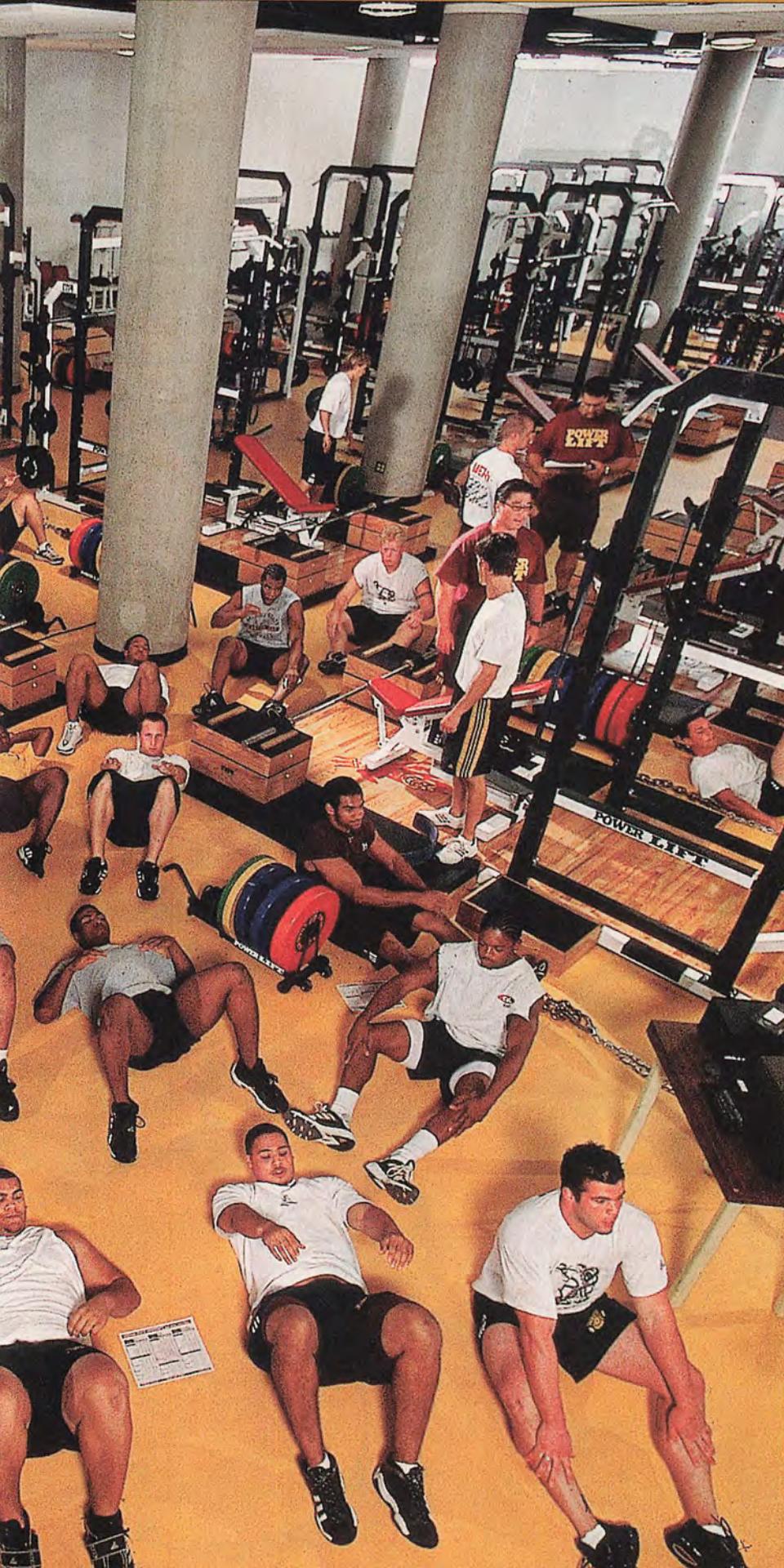


STRONG SHOWING The Sun Devils' heavy-metal arena blows away recruits.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BILL FRAKES

Worth The Weight

Arizona State players are pumped about pumping iron at their gleaming new temple of strength



ARIZONA STATE strength coach Joe Kenn loves weights, so he was psyched when he found out he was going to be able to stock a workout room that covers a third of an acre. Says Kenn, "It was better than being a kid in the candy store." The Lawrence Strength and Conditioning Center, which opened in March, boasts 650 grand worth of weights adorned with the phrase SUN DEVILS STRENGTH. The 16,000-square-foot facility (more than three times the size of the old one) includes offices, dressing rooms, a 40-meter track and a juice bar. "Because of the size of the old room, we were free-weight-oriented," says Kenn. "Now we can double and triple up on resistance machines, which are critical in football."

The cathedral of muscle does wonders for recruiting. Offensive line blue-chipper Jake Bingham spurned Lineman U, a.k.a. Nebraska, in part because Arizona State had better weight equipment. Of course, a plush weight room means nothing if all that iron isn't hoisted properly, but Kenn says the first-rate gear has led to first-rate workouts. "It gives us intangibles like motivation and improved work ethic," he says. "We call it the wow effect."

—Mark Bechtel

ULTIMATE FACILITIES

FINE MESS Noori (standing) prepares gourmet meals for an army of 130.





Top of The Food Chain

Vanderbilt isn't dominant on the field, but the Commodores are **fed like champs** at the training table

MAJID NOORI doesn't spend much time on the practice field or watching film, but he's still considered a member of the Vanderbilt coaching staff—and one of the most popular, at that. For the past 12 years the 48-year-old native of Iran, who has a bachelor's degree in physical education and sports science from the University of Tehran, has handled the Commodores' culinary needs. "Every team needs a food coach," says the man known to the players as Magic.

On a typical morning Noori prepares 20 varieties of omelette (including crawfish, shrimp or angel-hair pasta) plus the usual breakfast fare: pancakes, sausages and muffins. For lunch the Commodores might dig into ham and turkey sandwiches, fruit smoothies, a veggie tray and three pasta salads. Regular dinner entrées include duck with parsley sauce, salmon teriyaki, lobster linguini salad and Irish stew with saffron rice. Steaks, burgers and chicken fajitas are also on tap. In an average day the team will plow through 320 pounds of beef, 170 potatoes, 200 bananas, 750 eggs and 125 gallons of fruit drinks. "Just win and stay healthy," says Noori. "That's my motto." —M.B.

ULTIMATE FACILITIES



Handled With Care

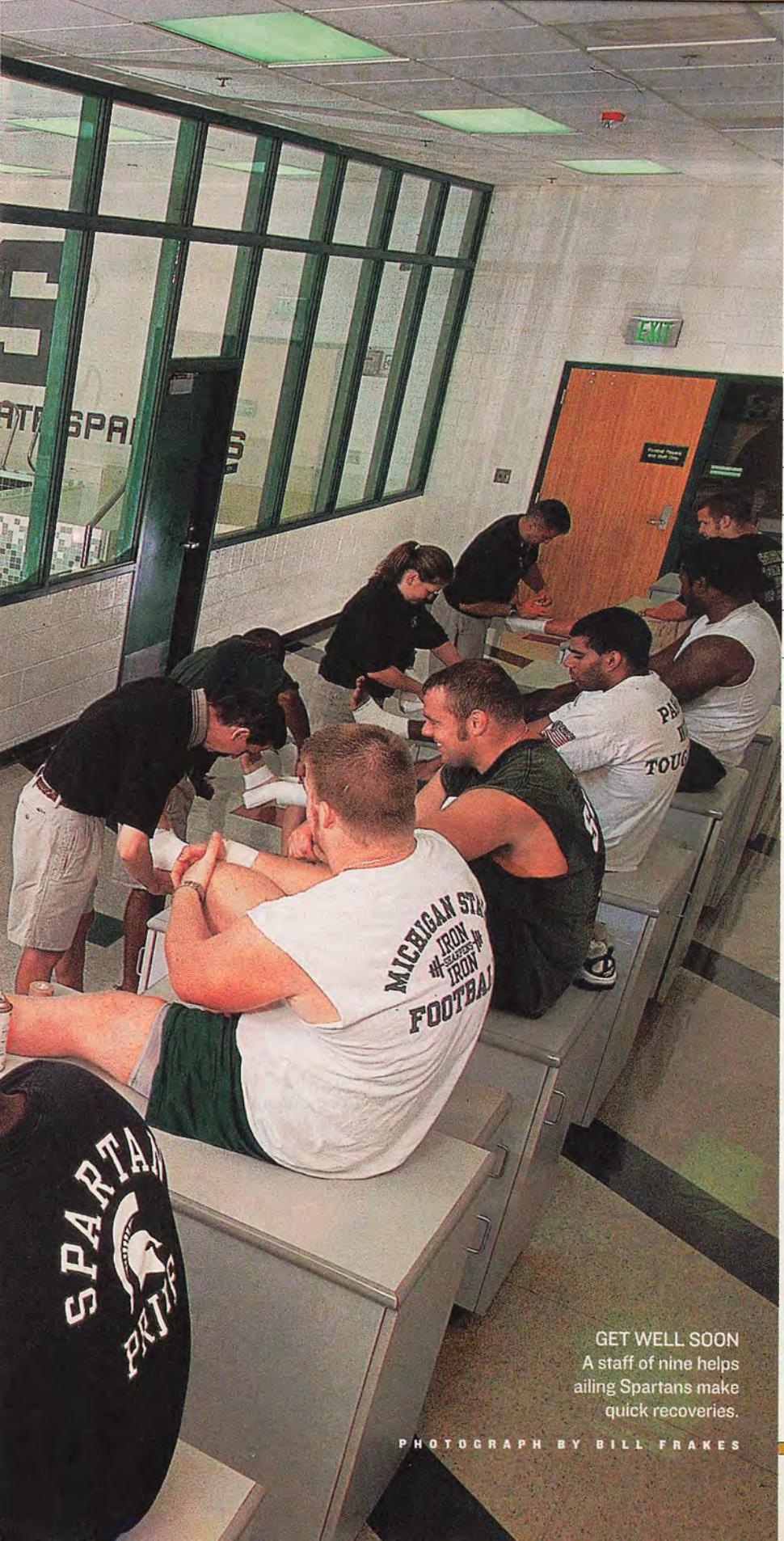
Treatment centers like Michigan State's are a **second home** for Saturday's warriors

BEING INJURED isn't a spa vacation, but mending in the Canyon Ranch of training rooms takes a bit of the sting out of rehab. Michigan State players are attended to by a staff of nine trainers in their 6,000-square-foot sports-medicine center. Among its features are a \$75,000 SwimEx therapy pool commodious enough for "several 300-pound linemen to roll around like whales," says head trainer Jeff Monroe, plus a cold tub in which as many as eight Spartans at a time can dangle sprained ankles or swollen knees. The facility boasts X-ray view boxes, ultrasound equipment and an unloader—a treadmill with a harness-and-pulley system that supports a player's weight, letting him get in a running workout while putting less pressure on joints. Plans are being made to add a fluoroscopy imaging device, which will allow team docs to diagnose injuries on the spot.

Besides its equipment, Monroe likes the room's fishbowl layout. "The glass walls allow us to supervise all the athletes at once," says Monroe, "but it also gives players getting taped a chance to check in on their injured teammates. It's a social place as well as a healing place." —*Kelley King*

GET WELL SOON
A staff of nine helps
ailing Spartans make
quick recoveries.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BILL FRAKES



Surprise, SURPRISE

BY IVAN MAISEL

HERE ARE two quintessentially American success stories: the big guy who gets bigger, and the little guy who makes good. The former is embodied in the sport of college football over the last decade, in which the six major conferences and Notre Dame formed the cartel that controls the Bowl Championship Series. This group of 63 schools has produced the last 17 national champions and the last 11 Heisman Trophy winners, and it gets nearly all of the national television time. The BCS teams dominate every aspect of the sport—except one. They don't rule the most important position on the field: quarterback.

Which brings us to the little guys. When it comes to developing a great quarterback—a guy with a live arm and a Pentium chip between the earholes of his helmet—the mid-level teams of Division I are doing a better job than the rich and famous programs. Two years ago the first three quarterbacks drafted by the NFL came from

non-BCS schools. In the most recent draft four of the first five quarterbacks taken played at non-BCS schools, including David Carr of Fresno State, who was chosen first overall, by the Houston Texans. And this fall the two best senior passers are Byron Leftwich of Marshall, in the Mid-American Conference, and Dave Ragone of Louisville, in Conference USA.

"It would be tough for one of us to win the Heisman Trophy," Leftwich says, "but it's been proven that quarterbacks from everywhere can play in the NFL. The NFL doesn't care where you're from. It cares how you play."

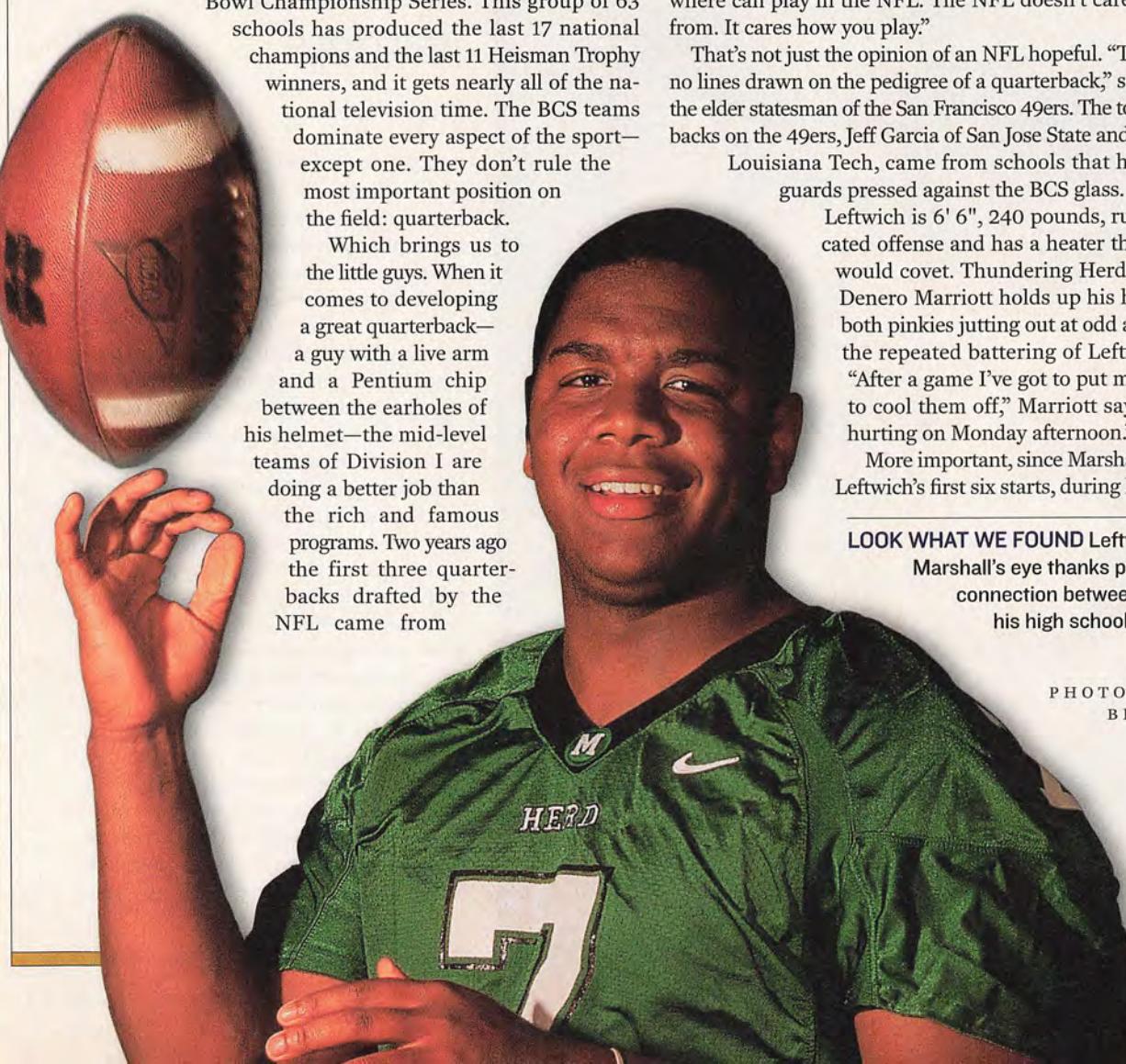
That's not just the opinion of an NFL hopeful. "There are really no lines drawn on the pedigree of a quarterback," says Bill Walsh, the elder statesman of the San Francisco 49ers. The top two quarterbacks on the 49ers, Jeff Garcia of San Jose State and Tim Rattay of Louisiana Tech, came from schools that have their face guards pressed against the BCS glass.

Leftwich is 6' 6", 240 pounds, runs a sophisticated offense and has a heater that Brett Favre would covet. Thundering Herd wide receiver Denero Marriott holds up his hands to show both pinkies jutting out at odd angles, bent by the repeated battering of Leftwich's passes. "After a game I've got to put my hands in ice to cool them off," Marriott says. "They stop hurting on Monday afternoon."

More important, since Marshall went 2-4 in Leftwich's first six starts, during his sophomore

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND Leftwich caught Marshall's eye thanks partly to an old connection between Pruett and his high school coach.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
BILL FRAKES



NFL teams always seem to find top quarterbacks in unexpected places. How do talents like Marshall's **Byron Leftwich** and Louisville's **David Ragone** slip through the grasp of the big-time schools?

year, the quarterback has led the Thundering Herd to victories in 17 of its last 20 games. Last season he completed 315 of 470 attempts (67%) for 4,132 yards and 38 touchdowns, with only seven interceptions. Those regular-season numbers don't include his 576-yard, four-touchdown performance in Marshall's 64-61 double-overtime victory over East Carolina in the GMAC Bowl, in which Leftwich led the Herd back from a 38-8 halftime deficit.

The 6' 4", 250-pound Ragone, a lefthander, is 20-5 as a starter and is a two-time C-USA Offensive Player of the Year. He runs Louisville's West Coast offense with aplomb, having thrown for 5,677 yards and 50 touchdowns over the past two seasons, but it is his competitiveness that his teammates love most. The next time he slides to avoid contact will be the first. Louisville coach John L. Smith cringes when he sees Ragone initiate a hit but accepts it as his quarterback's way. "Hell, he won't slide," Smith says. "Maybe he has a greater chance of getting hurt if I force him to do something he doesn't want to do."

For Ragone it's a simple matter of physics. "I'm not [hitting] to prove a point," he says. "I'm bigger than most corners and safeties."

Leftwich and Ragone owe their success in part to their teams' offensive styles. Marshall coach Bob Pruett has fashioned an offense with West Coast tendencies (short passes into open space are a staple) that depends on the intelligence of the quarterback, who calls the blocking schemes and has the authority to change plays at the line of scrimmage. "When Byron checks us out of a play," Marriott says, "he's

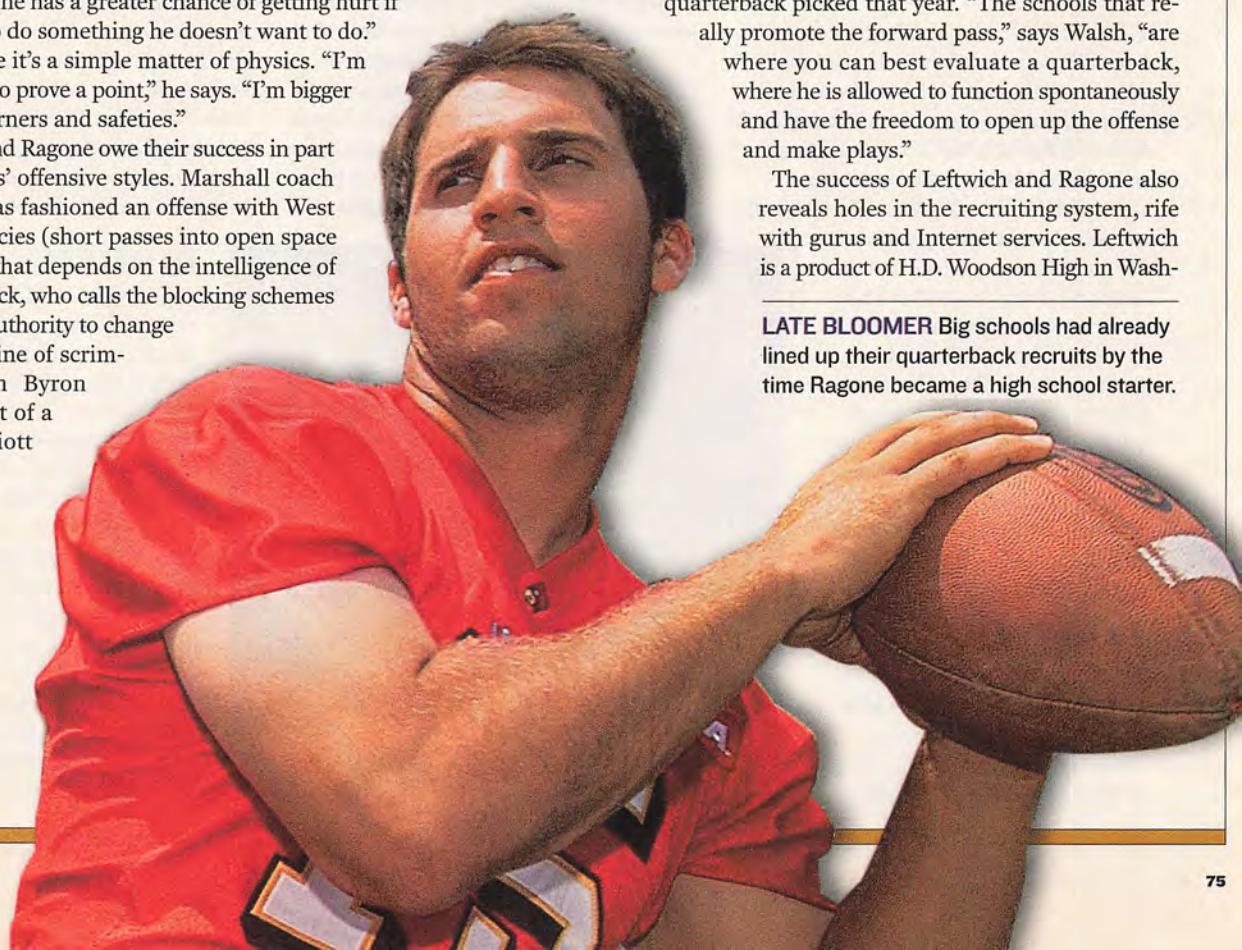
right 99.5 percent of the time." In Pruett's six seasons the Thundering Herd has averaged 35.3 points and 315.8 passing yards per game. His offense is so well respected that he has lost four offensive coordinators to bigger schools. The most recent departure was that of Ed Zaunbrecher, who has installed Marshall's offense at Florida under new coach Ron Zook.

At Louisville, Smith began running the West Coast offense he had used at Utah State and quickly turned around a team that had gone 1-10 in 1997, the year before he arrived. The Cardinals have won the last two C-USA championships.

It should come as no surprise that Marshall and Louisville are producing standout passers. In the 2000 draft the New York Jets selected Herd quarterback Chad Pennington in the first round, the first quarterback taken, while the Baltimore Ravens chose the Cardinals' Chris Redman in the third round, the third quarterback picked that year. "The schools that really promote the forward pass," says Walsh, "are where you can best evaluate a quarterback, where he is allowed to function spontaneously and have the freedom to open up the offense and make plays."

The success of Leftwich and Ragone also reveals holes in the recruiting system, rife with gurus and Internet services. Leftwich is a product of H.D. Woodson High in Wash-

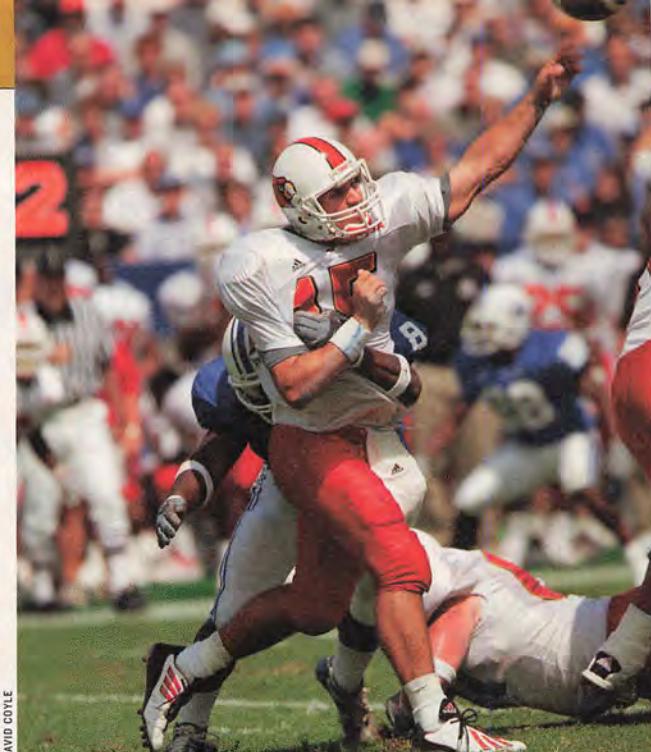
LATE BLOOMER Big schools had already lined up their quarterback recruits by the time Ragone became a high school starter.



ington, D.C., where basketball is king. "A lot of these good athletes are from schools off the beaten path that a lot of recruiters don't want to go into," Pruett says. "They get carried away with some guru saying some other guy is good." Pruett knows the Woodson program well—he and Woodson coach Bob Headen played semipro football together in the late 1960s. During Leftwich's senior season, former Marshall offensive coordinator Tony Petersen popped in a tape of Leftwich. "I watched five plays and said, 'I'll take him,'" Petersen says. "He had a natural lightning release and a big-time arm. A lot of guys will say, 'Boy, I like a quarterback to be a coach's son with a high GPA.' Sometimes the inner-city schools don't get looked at, but it didn't bother me where he grew up."

Leftwich, then a 6' 4", 190-pound rail, drew interest from a lot of smaller schools. "I could have gone to any I-AA school in America," he says. But Marshall's games are televised in the D.C. area every week. Leftwich liked what he saw when he watched All-America wide receiver Randy Moss set records and draw national attention while at Marshall. "It's a quarterback's dream offense," says Leftwich. Moreover, a move from the big city ap-

HEAVY DUTY The 6' 4", 250-pound Ragone doesn't shy away from hits because, he says, "I'm bigger than most corners and safeties."



DAVID COYLE

FIRST CALL FOR THE HEISMAN

The Heisman Trophy race is always part talent show, part popularity contest—with big-name favorites, middle-of-the-pack players who need

some breaks, and lower-profile guys who put up big numbers. Ivan Maisel sizes up the 2002 season's early candidates.

HYPED

REX GROSSMAN, QB, Florida, Jr. It's been 20 years since a Heisman runner-up came back the next season and won the trophy. Grossman has a chance to duplicate Herschel Walker's feat because he throws the deep ball better than anyone else.

KEN DORSEY, QB, Miami, Sr. He has the quickest release in the game and the quickest brain as well. Still, at times, a winning quarterback has never looked so ungainly.

CHRIS RIX, QB, Florida State, Soph. Rix had 3,123 yards of total offense as a freshman last year. With experience, healthy receivers and a veteran line he'll take the Seminoles a long way.

CHRIS SIMMS, QB, Texas, Sr. Famous son. Lone Star State. *All legacy, no substance*, say detractors. Hey, it worked for Dubya.

HOPEFUL

ELI MANNING, QB, Ole Miss, Jr. Dad Archie's no-Heisman-campaign edict won't have as big an impact on Eli's trophy chances

as the Rebels' suspect defense will. Ole Miss may not win enough to give him a shot.

ONTERRIO SMITH, TB, Oregon, Jr. The fast, punishing Tennessee transfer will get enough carries to solve the lack of name recognition. But the last Pac-10 player to win the Heisman was Marcus Allen in 1981.

JASON GESSER, QB, Washington

State, Sr. Good arm, good feet and, as he proved in last year's 10-2 campaign, he can win. A big game and a victory at Ohio State on Sept. 14 will bring him national attention. **LEE SUGGS**, TB, Virginia Tech, Sr. He'll have had 12 months to mend his torn ACL, but how much will he have to share the ball with sophomore Kevin Jones?

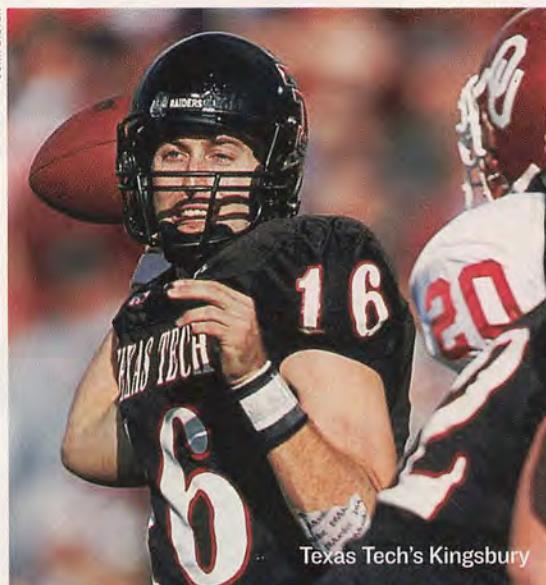
HIDDEN

DAVE RAGONE, QB, Louisville, Sr. He doesn't have a chance to win unless the Cardinals upset Florida State in Louisville on Sept. 26.

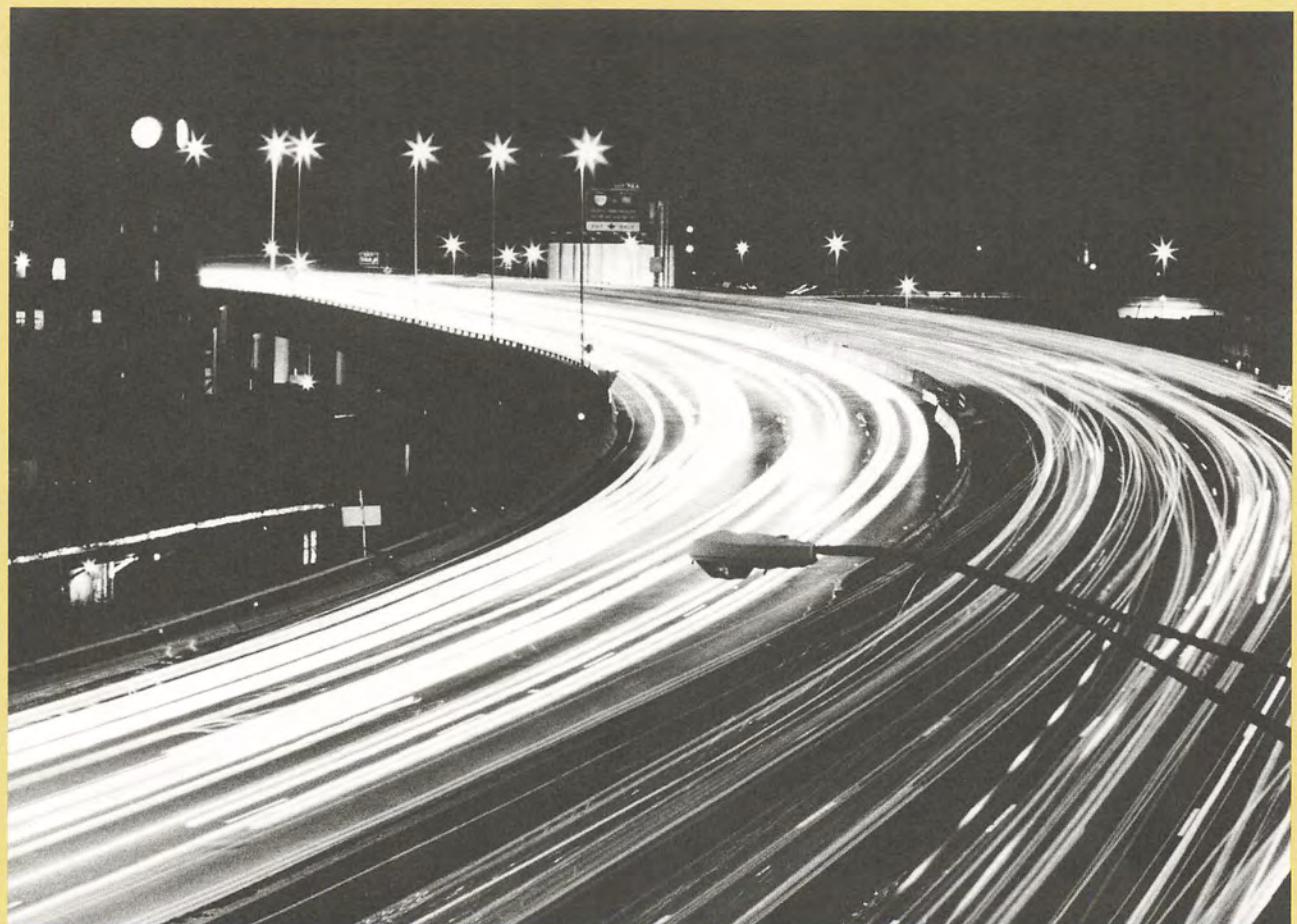
BYRON LEFTWICH, QB, Marshall, Sr. His job is even tougher because his must-win game is on the road: at Virginia Tech on Sept. 12.

KLIFF KINGSBURY, QB, Texas Tech, Sr. A few more 400-yard passing games—he has four, including 44 of 56 for 440 yards against Oklahoma State in '01—will make voters take notice.

LUKE McCOWN, QB, Louisiana Tech, Jr. He's thrown for more than 6,200 yards and 50 TDs in two seasons. Bulldogs alums include Terry Bradshaw and Tim Rattay.



Texas Tech's Kingsbury



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UNINSURED MOTORISTS: _____ PER PERSON _____ PER OCCURRENCE PROPERTY DAMAGE	CAR 1 CAR 2		
COMPREHENSIVE (YOUR CAR): _____ DEDUCTIBLE	CAR 1 CAR 2		
COLLISION (YOUR CAR): _____ DEDUCTIBLE	CAR 1 CAR 2		
EMERGENCY ROAD SERVICE:	CAR 1 CAR 2		
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pealed to him. "I wanted to get away. I had been in D.C. my whole life. There weren't any vacations to Florida."

Ragone's experience exposes a weakness of the early commitment system, which has become popular in recent years. Coaches from big schools invite top prospects to their summer camps and offer the players scholarships before they play a down in their senior years. The rush to secure players early widens the margin of error. "It's hard enough for us to judge players at 22 years old, after four years of college football," Indianapolis Colts president Bill Polian

which matches Ohio all-stars against elite players from Pennsylvania, Ragone was named Ohio's MVP. Last year, when Louisville played at TCU, former Ohio State coach John Cooper served as the analyst on the ESPN telecast. "He said on TV that I was one of the better quarterbacks in the country," says Ragone. "That was sweet." That's not the only worm that has turned. According to Ragone, one big-school recruiter who passed him by has become an agent. Says Ragone, "He's tried to contact people who know me. He wants to talk with me now." □

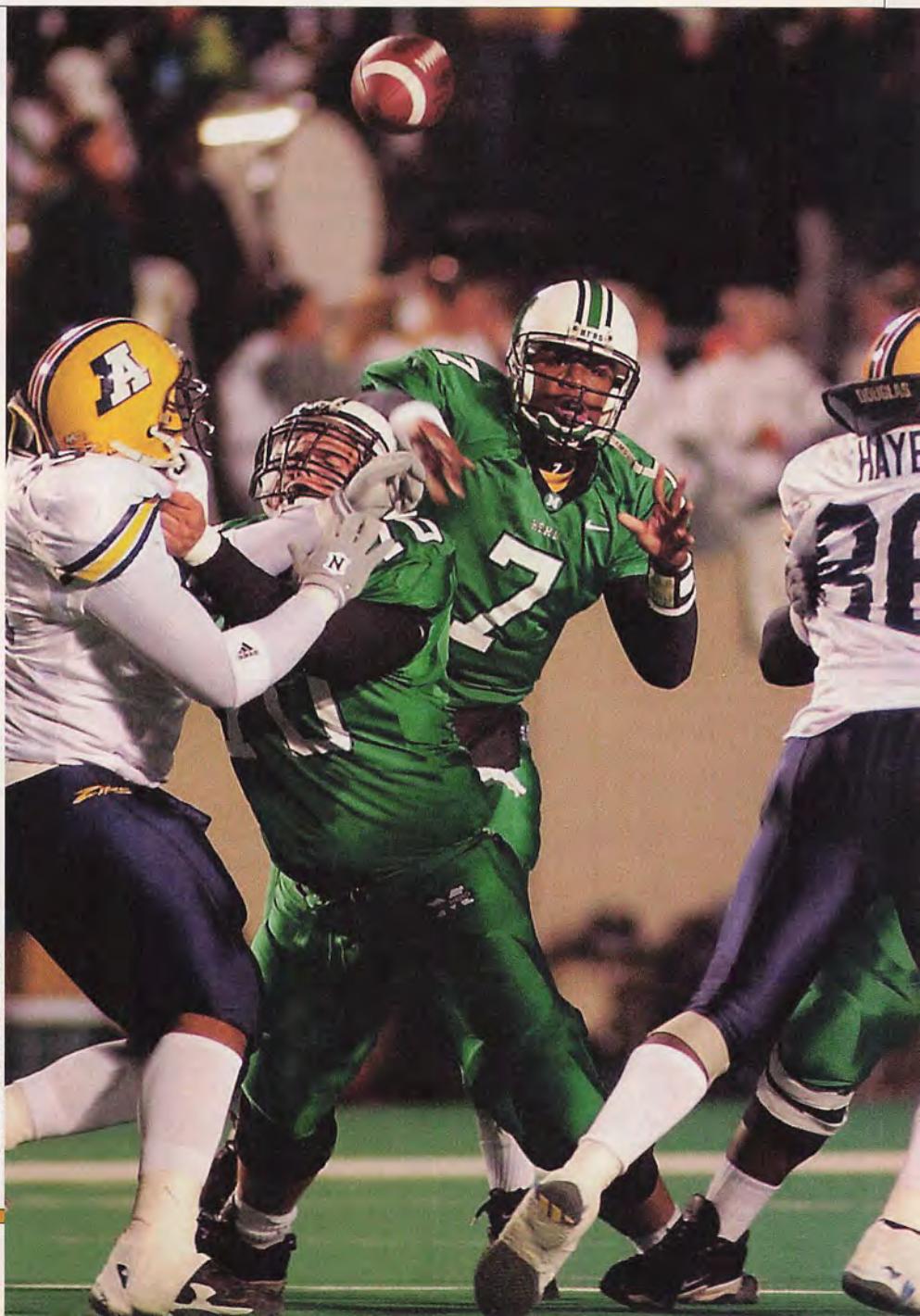
The success of Leftwich and Ragone reveals holes in the recruiting system, rife with gurus and Internet services.

says. "Imagine how hard it is to judge a 16- or 17-year-old high school kid."

As the top schools make their handshake deals with recruits, the rest of the prospects fall into the pond that the mid-level schools like Louisville and Marshall are fishing. On a steamy June day, Thundering Herd quarterbacks coach Larry Kueck still had plenty of potential fall recruits to sort through. "I'm guessing that the big schools have narrowed it down to two or three quarterbacks right now," he said. "We can't do that. I've looked at eight quarterbacks on tape in the last two days."

The early commitments leave little room for late bloomers such as Ragone. A product of Cleveland St. Ignatius, a powerhouse in Ohio high school football, Ragone didn't start until his senior year. The summer before, he went to the Miami (Ohio) camp and attracted the attention of the coaches—for his punting. "I was not playing," he says. "What coach is going to look at me?" By the time Ragone led St. Ignatius to the state semifinals in November 1997, most of the big-time schools had lined up their quarterbacks. "John L. looked at the tape and said, 'Gosh, we've got a chance to get this kid?'" says Louisville defensive coordinator Chris Smeland, who recruits in Ohio for the Cardinals.

Ohio State, the team Ragone wanted to play for, showed little interest. The following summer in the Big 33 game,



QUICK ON THE DRAW In Marshall's West Coast-style offense, Leftwich's decisions have to be as snappy as his release.

RANDY SNYDER/THE HERALD-DISPATCH/AP

THE TOP 25

Scouting

1 OKLAHOMA
2 MIAMI
3 TENNESSEE
4 TEXAS
5 FLORIDA STATE
6 COLORADO
7 WASHINGTON STATE
8 FLORIDA
9 OREGON
10 GEORGIA
11 WASHINGTON
12 OHIO STATE
13 LSU
14 NEBRASKA
15 VIRGINIA TECH
16 MARYLAND
17 MARSHALL
18 SOUTH CAROLINA
19 LOUISVILLE
20 MICHIGAN
21 USC
22 TEXAS A&M
23 AUBURN
24 ILLINOIS
25 PENN STATE

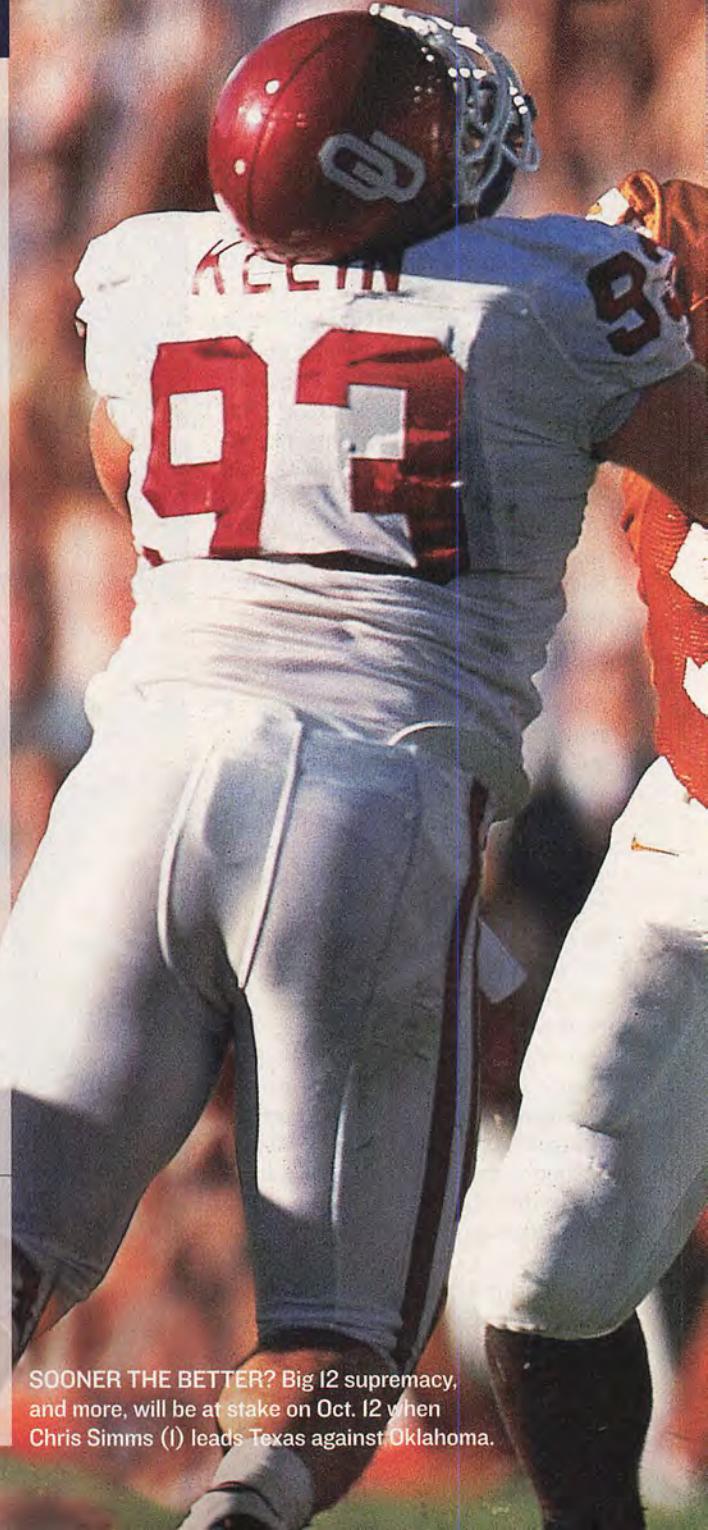
CAN'T-MISS GAMES

SI'S PICKS FOR THIS SEASON'S TOP 10 MATCHUPS

1. OCT. 12 Oklahoma vs. Texas
In Dallas, Longhorns look to avenge 14-3 defeat in Red River rivalry
2. OCT. 12 Florida State at Miami
Wide Right IV? Seminoles have a shaky history at Orange Bowl
3. SEPT. 21 Florida at Tennessee
Volunteers still despise Gators, with or without Spurrier
4. NOV. 2 Colorado at Oklahoma
Showdown in Norman could be preview of Big 12 title game
5. NOV. 16 Washington at Oregon
Pac-10 foes meet in Eugene, where Huskies haven't won since '96
6. SEPT. 7 Miami at Florida
First test for new Gators coach—versus defending national champs
7. NOV. 9 Miami at Tennessee
Perfect storm? Hurricanes visit Knoxville for first time in 17 years
8. SEPT. 14 Nebraska at Penn State
Cornhuskers will leave fans in Happy Valley with little cheer
9. AUG. 31 Washington at Michigan
Huskies would love to sing their own chorus of *Hail to the Victors*
10. SEPT. 12 Marshall at Virginia Tech
Two high-powered offenses meet in a shootout in Blacksburg

Scouting report TELLING NUMBER compiled by David Sabino. Strength of schedule rankings based on SI's formula.

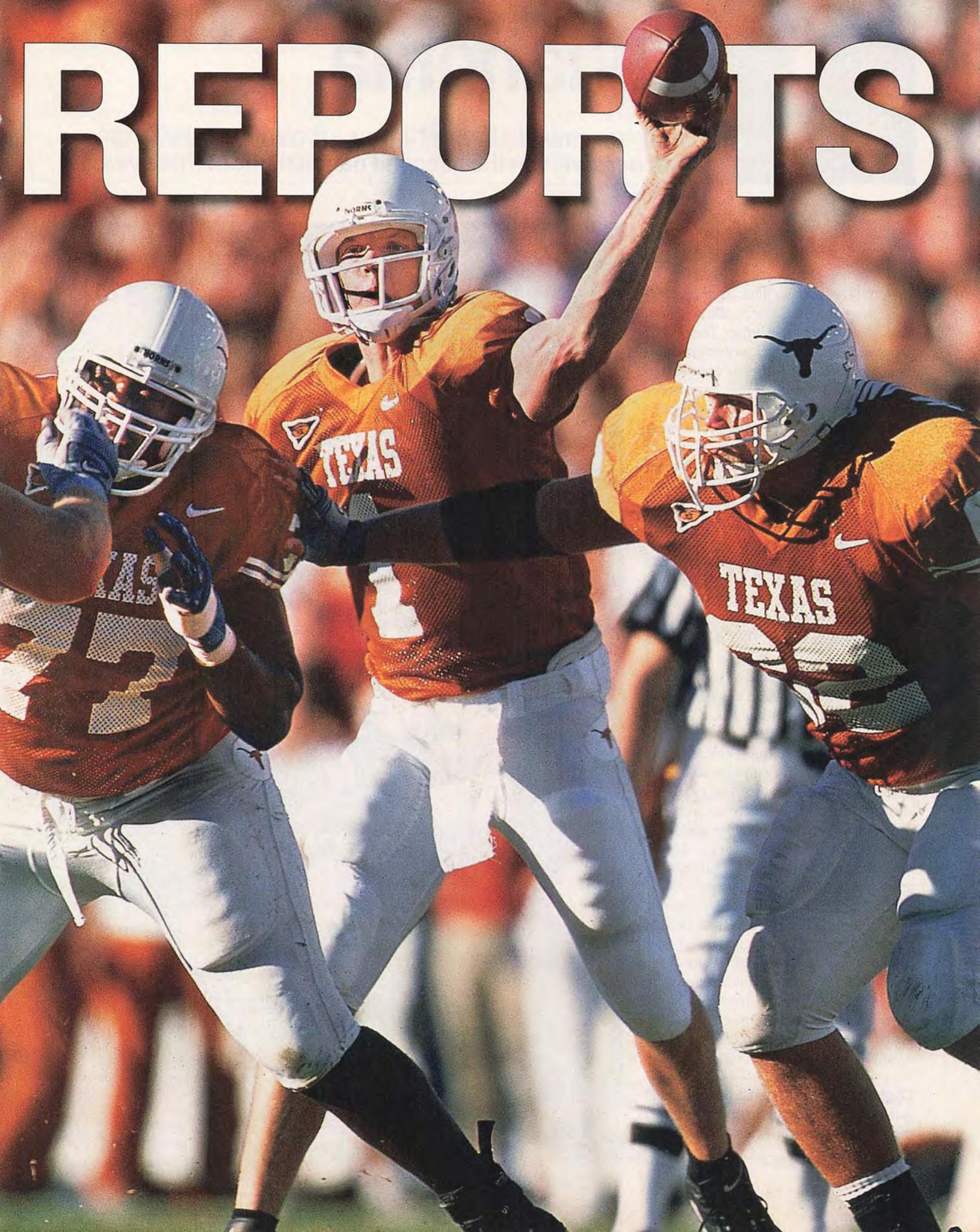
For more conference and team previews, bowl projections and position rankings, plus a special package on college football upsets, go to [cnnsi.com/football/collge](http://cnnsi.com/football/colllege).



SOONER THE BETTER? Big 12 supremacy, and more, will be at stake on Oct. 12 when Chris Simms (1) leads Texas against Oklahoma.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL 2002

REPORTS



1

Oklahoma

If the revamped offense runs as efficiently as the D, the Sooners will win their second national title in three years

TWAS midway through spring practice when the Sooners' offensive linemen started to get ornery. They picked fights with defensive tackles during scrimmages and brawled with one another between drills. These flare-ups, says senior tight end Trent Smith, were the most encouraging signs of the spring. "After every practice, all the defense could talk about was how nasty the O-linemen were getting," says Smith. "They'd found their attitude."

It's about time. Behind passive young linemen last year the Oklahoma attack produced a mere 119.4 rushing yards per game (89th in the nation) and only two touchdowns combined in losses to Nebraska and Oklahoma State. What's more, quarterbacks Nate Hybl and Jason White were sacked 31 times. That the Sooners finished 11-2, including a win over Arkansas in the Cotton Bowl, is a credit to their uncompromising defense, which allowed 262.8 yards per game to rank fourth in the nation.

"It felt like we spent the entire season in third-and-long," says Smith, who led the nation's tight ends with 564 receiving yards. "Unlike the defensive players, we had never adjusted our attitudes after [winning the national championship in 2000]. We just finessed everything, while our defense was constantly going for broke."

The offense overall should be dynamic compared with last season's, and for that reason Oklahoma has an excellent chance to win its second national title in three years. The transformation is due mostly to the hiring of assistant Kevin Wilson, the former Northwestern offensive coordinator who was brought in to resuscitate the running game, and to the promotion of as-

22 SKIDOO A new emphasis on the ground game promises to create more options for the attack and unleash the dangerous Griffin.



AL TIELEMANS

sistant Chuck Long to offensive coordinator. (Long succeeds Mark Mangino, who took the Kansas coaching job.) As part of their effort to diversify a short-pass heavy spread offense that better defenses read like a pop-up book, the coaches have instructed the offensive linemen to eliminate the oceans of space that existed between them last year and block more as a unit.

They hope the change improves the team's rushing game and creates more opportunities to throw deep.

"My goals were to make the quarterback a more viable run option and devise a simple blocking scheme that works with one-back and two-back sets," says Wilson, whose Northwestern offense averaged 475.6 yards in 2000 (third best in the nation) and 442.9 last season (15th best). "The idea is to let the players use their natural abilities, which is important when you're working with such high-caliber athletes."

Wilson has plenty of topflight athletes to work with, including sophomore tackles Jammal Brown, Jerod Fields and Wes Sims, and sophomore center Vince Carter, all of whom started at least five games last year. The line's cohesiveness will be essential to senior tailback Quentin Griffin, who is better than his 67.0 yards per game in 2001, and to White, who connected on 64.6% of his passes for 681 yards in seven games before tearing the ACL in his left knee against Nebraska.

Because he is more mobile and has a better field sense, White, a junior, has the inside track on the starting quarterback job over Hybl, a senior who last year threw for 2,234 yards and 14 touchdowns but had 13 interceptions. A deep and versatile receiving corps that includes precocious sophomore Mark Clayton and sure-handed senior Antwone Savage will allow Smith, who bulked up to 244 pounds in the off-season, to provide the linemen with extra blocking help.

The combination of a new offensive coaching philosophy and battle-tested personnel, not to mention a favorable schedule (home games against Colorado and Texas A&M), makes Oklahoma the team to beat. "The addition of Kevin has only added to that team's strengths," says Ohio State defensive coordinator Mark Dantonio, whose staff traveled to Norman in March to observe the Sooners. "There's a championship air about that team." —*Kelley King*



FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 11-2 (6-2, 2nd in Big 12 South)

FINAL RANKING: No. 6 AP, No. 6 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

18.7

Average margin of victory in 38 games under Bob Stoops; in those games Oklahoma has won by 10 or more points 31 times.

FIVE KEY RETURNERS

DT Tommie Harris [Soph.]

Big 12's top defensive rookie in '01

RB Quentin Griffin [Sr.]

30 straight games with a reception

CB Derrick Strait [Jr.]

One of nation's top cover corners

LB Teddy Lehman [Jr.]

Ranked third on team in tackles (83)

TE Trent Smith [Sr.]

Led all I-A tight ends with 61 catches

ENEMY LINES

An opposing coach's view

A defense built for speed will be tough for any foe



This is a great defense, the best we'll face. They're very good when they react, like getting back on a play-action pass. . . . End Jimmie Wilkerson is phenomenal. If you run a naked bootleg, he's going to squeeze the tackle and catch the quarterback. When you game-plan, you see that that's not the way to run. . . . Teddy Lehman and the other linebackers run every bit as well as running backs do. . . . The safeties are making plays two and three yards behind the line. When they're not supporting the run, they are in the proper area of pass coverage. . . . On offense you try to get on the quarterback.

Jason White, who's mobile, is better than Nate Hybl, who's a standing target. . . . Running back

Quentin Griffin has good balance and toughness. . . . Tight end Trent Smith is hard to stop when they need a few yards.

SCHEDULE

Strength: 35th

Aug. 30	at Tulsa
Sept. 7	ALABAMA
14	TEXAS-EL PASO
28	SOUTH FLORIDA
Oct. 5	at Missouri
12	TEXAS
19	IOWA STATE
Nov. 2	COLORADO
9	at Texas A&M
16	at Baylor
23	TEXAS TECH
30	at Oklahoma State

*In Dallas



2

Miami

After taking the nation by storm last season, the defending champions haven't lost any of their ferocity



FOR GUIDING a defense that yielded the fewest points (9.4 per game) of any team in the nation last year, Miami defensive coordinator Randy Shannon won the Broyles Award, given annually to college football's top assistant. A few months ago his returning defensive linemen came by Shannon's office and pointed at the trophy, which was displayed prominently on a shelf.

"You've gotta take that home, Coach," they said.

"But it's a testament to you guys," Shannon said.

"That's why you have to take it home," one of his charges answered. "It's time to move forward."

The Hurricanes may be coming off a 12-0 season and a 37-14 win over Nebraska in the Rose Bowl, but they continue to show little of the braggadocio displayed by Miami's great teams of the 1980s. Instead, as they look ahead to a schedule packed with Alps-like obstacles that include games against Florida, Florida State, Tennessee and Virginia Tech, most players acknowledge that a national championship repeat requires redoubled dedication. "The thing that surprised me most about these players and coaches was their eagerness to get to work the day after the Rose Bowl," says Larry Coker, who last year became the first rookie coach in 53 years to lead his team to a national championship. "They understand the danger of resting on our laurels."

The Hurricanes also know they have some rebuilding to do. They lost 12 starters, three of whom were early

HURRICANE FORCE With defensive studs like McDougle, Miami will again terrorize foes.

NFL draft entries. Only senior center Brett Romberg is back from the gifted offensive line that was the foundation of the offense, which set a school record by scoring 43.2 points per game. The secondary that held opponents to 138.2 passing yards per game (second fewest in the nation) is gone, replaced by a jumble of underclassmen who collectively have zero starts. The biggest void, however, may have been left by senior linebacker Chris Campbell, whose death in a car crash last February cast a pall over the team's spring sessions. "We all sat around after the funeral and thought about what Chris would want us to do this season," says senior defensive tackle Jerome McDougle. "His desire to win gives us a special reason to succeed."

Despite its losses, Miami shouldn't fall far, as the Hurricanes have no shortage of marquee players. In anticipation of diminished protection, 6' 5" senior quarterback and Heisman Trophy contender Ken Dorsey (who has already passed for a school-record 58 touchdowns) has added muscle to his lanky frame through intense workouts, hearty breakfasts and second helpings of roommate Romberg's pasta with homemade marinara sauce. Slippery sophomore tailback Frank Gore (9.1 yards per carry), who shredded his right ACL in a March practice, should be back on the field by Oct. 1. In his absence, capable backups Willie McGahee and Jarrett Payton will share the running duties. On what could be the country's deepest defensive line, no fewer than eight players are in hot competition for places in the starting rotation. McDougle, who had 48 quarterback hurries last year, is not the only star on the line. Senior tackle William Joseph (10 sacks, 22 tackles for losses) has quietly become one of the best run-stoppers in the nation. "Each of the eight gets 35 plays in every practice," says Shannon. "They're not very boisterous, but they are all quick, powerful and they're perfectionists."

Topping a near-flawless season will be tough, but the Hurricanes believe that it can be done. A superior coaching staff and a still-abundant array of talent give Miami as good a title shot as anyone. If these relatively quiet and unassuming Hurricanes can make some noise in tone-setting games (starting with a Sept. 7 brawl at Florida), they could have more trophies to put on the shelf come next January.

—K.K.

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 12-0 (7-0, 1st in Big East)
FINAL RANKING: No. 1 AP, No. 1 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

12

Wins last season under Larry Coker, who broke the I-A record of 11 for a first-year coach, a mark shared by three others.

FIVE KEY RETURNEES

QB Ken Dorsey [Sr.]
58 TDs and 26-1 record as a starter

WR Andre Johnson [Jr.]
199 yards, two TDs in Rose Bowl

C Brett Romberg [Sr.]
Hasn't allowed a sack in his career

DE William Joseph [Sr.]
61 tackles ranked fourth on team

LB D.J. Williams [Jr.]
Had 43 tackles after move from FB

ENEMY LINES

An opposing coach's view

The Hurricanes have stars on both sides of the ball

 They've got draft picks all the way across the defensive line. The front seven will allow the secondary to grow up in a hurry. The opposing quarterback won't have time to find a lot of holes. The thing the defense is in need of is a leader. Two years ago it was linebacker **Dan Morgan**. Last year it was strong safety **Ed Reed**. This year it might be **Jonathan Vilma**, not only because he's the middle linebacker but also because he makes big plays. . . . When the rush gets loose, quarterback **Ken Dorsey** does an excellent job of buying himself a little room in the pocket. He'll find somebody and can scramble without getting

SCHEDULE

Strength: 38th

Aug. 31	FLORIDA A&M
Sept. 7	at Florida
	14 at Temple
	21 BOSTON COLLEGE
Oct. 5	CONNECTICUT
	12 FLORIDA STATE
	26 at West Virginia
Nov. 2	Rutgers
	9 at Tennessee
	21 PITTSBURGH
	30 at Syracuse
Dec. 7	VIRGINIA TECH

a penalty. . . . Tailback **Willie McGahee** is a traditional Miami back, a big guy who has very good speed. . . . There aren't a lot of guys playing on Sunday who can defend wide receiver **Andre Johnson**. He's big, strong and very fast.



3

Tennessee

Unfinished business is the theme as the Vols address the breakdowns that kept them out of last year's title game

STEVE SPURRIER, the coach whom Volunteer Nation loved to hate, has gone to the NFL, and Tennessee has a solid core of veterans that will be buttressed by a couple of top recruiting classes, but the sense in Knoxville is more of urgency than confidence. An in-house investigation into improper benefits allegedly received by former Vol Tee Martin has brought the specter of future probation. And looking back to the recent past is no fun either. One week after beating arch-rival Florida 34–32 to win the SEC East and climb to No. 2 in the polls last season, Tennessee unraveled in the fourth quarter of the conference championship game and lost to LSU 31–20. Goodbye, Rose Bowl. "We had the national championship game in our hands," says junior cornerback Jabari Greer, "and we looked past LSU."

Senior linebacker Eddie Moore says he has watched the LSU tape hundreds of times. His stomach no longer flips at the sight of the loss, but he wants to hold on to some of the feeling of discomfort it gives him. "We've got to work two or three times harder and keep that game in mind," he says. Moore is typical of this year's defenders: He's fast, relatively slight (6 feet, 220 pounds) and, having played with departed linemen Albert Haynesworth, John Henderson and Will Overstreet—all of whom went in the first three rounds of the NFL draft—unheralded. Moore is the only returning player in the front seven who started every game last season, which he did despite playing all year with a separated left shoulder (now healed). "Eddie leads by example," Greer says. "He's a hard-nosed guy. He doesn't get in your face unless he has to."

Gone are all four defensive line starters, who made 34 tackles for loss, 14 of them sacks, last season. Their replacements, seniors Omari Hand and Constantin Ritz-

mann at the ends and seniors Rashad Moore (no relation to Eddie) and Eddie Kendrick at the tackle spots, average nine fewer pounds per man. However, all four have played extensively.

Coach Phillip Fulmer signed players of the year from Alabama, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee, but it's unlikely any of them will match the impact that wide receiver Kelley Washington had as a freshman last season, when the refugee from minor league baseball caught 64 passes for 1,010 yards and five touchdowns. If only the Vols could get him to come out of his shell. "I definitely feel I'm the best receiver in the nation," says Washington, who'll turn 23 on Aug. 21. "Last year was just a sample. I'm out to show I'm destined for great things." At 6' 4", 225 pounds, Washington relied on raw talent last season. Now he's looking to put his experience to work. "I'm counting my steps now instead of just running my routes," he says. "I'm reading defenses and changing routes on the run."

Washington will face a lot of double coverage until a second receiving threat can be established. The candidates range from senior Leonard Scott, a former NCAA sprint champion, to freshman Jonathan Wade. "He's real quick off the ball," says junior quarterback Casey Clausen, referring to Wade. "He's fast and has real good hands. He's catching on pretty quick."

Halfway through his college career, Clausen has already started 20 games. He feels confident in his knowledge of the offense, but when he needs a refresher he goes back to the game tapes from Tennessee's 1997 season. Ole Miss's Eli Manning isn't the only SEC quarterback who's getting tips from Peyton. Clausen will look at the defense and try to guess where Peyton will throw the ball. He says he guesses right about 80% of the time. "His senior year is

FOLLOW THE LEADER Clausen has already started 20 games for the Volunteers but still learns by studying video of Peyton Manning.



TONI DIPIACE

when he was at his best," Clausen says. "He got to a point where he knew what to do and knew just as well what the defense would do." Some of Clausen's studies have a more specific purpose, however. The Southern Mississippi defense that Peyton riddled for 399 yards and four touchdowns in '97 was coached by John Thompson, the new defensive coordinator at Florida.

The game with the Gators, usually the highlight of the Vols' schedule, may be overshadowed this year by a visit from defending national champion Miami on Nov. 9. "It's hard not to think about it," Greer says of the matchup with the Hurricanes. He should be careful. If the Volunteers learned one thing from last season, it's not to look too far ahead.

—Ivan Maisel



FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 11-2 (7-1, 1st in SEC East)
FINAL RANKING: No. 4 AP, No. 4 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

34

Sacks by the Volunteers last season, tops in the SEC. It was the 12th consecutive season in which Tennessee had 30 or more.

FIVE KEY RETURNEES

QB Casey Clausen [Jr.]
Fifth in I-A with 17 wins as a starter

WR Kelley Washington [Soph.]
64 catches, 1,010 yards last year

LT Michael Munoz [Soph.]
Knee surgery sidelined him in '01

LB Eddie Moore [Sr.]
Team-high 81 tackles, seven for loss

CB Jabari Greer [Jr.]
Broke up a team-best 12 passes

ENEMY LINES

An opposing coach's view

A new D line will have a big say in the Vols' success



I don't think **Casey Clausen** has a great arm, but he's a lot more experienced now and has a steady hand. . . . Wideout **Kelley Washington** is a big, physical player, as good a receiver as there has been in this league in a long time. . . . They'll be good on the offensive line, but losing their three best guys on the defensive front—**Albert Haynesworth**, **John Henderson** and **Will Overstreet**—will hurt them. On the end, **Constantin Ritzmann** is a finesse guy; at tackle, **Rashad Moore** is a hole-plugger and **Ed Kendrick** moves around blockers rather than through them. Defensive coordinator

John Chavis would rather have guys up front who are more physical. . . . **Eddie Moore** is an intuitive linebacker. He's not real big, but he runs well. . . . Freshman corner **Jason Allen** is a heck of a prospect.

SCHEDULE

Strength: 27th

Aug. 31	WYOMING*
Sept. 7	MIDDLE TENN. STATE
21	FLORIDA
28	RUTGERS
Oct. 5	ARKANSAS
12	at Georgia
26	ALABAMA
Nov. 2	at South Carolina
9	MIAMI
16	at Mississippi State
23	Vanderbilt
30	KENTUCKY
	*at Nashville



4

Texas

For two of Austin's biggest names—Mack Brown and Chris Simms—it's time for all that potential to pay off

IN SOME ways Chris Simms has scarcely adapted to life at Texas. Though Austin teems with trendy restaurants and terrific Tex-Mex food, Simms's abbreviated list of acceptable dining establishments is topped by Chili's. Despite having spent more than three years in the Lone Star State, he refuses to say "y'all," no matter the context. "I'm still a 'you guys' guy," says the New Jersey native. "I won't even say that word out loud."

While he may never be a true son of the Southland, Simms is now Texas's undisputed starting quarterback. It was no secret that the departed Major Applewhite was the sentimental favorite of many Texas supporters. Applewhite was a red-haired and freckled underdog, lightly recruited out of high school and generously listed at 6' 1" and 207 pounds. Now a senior, the 6' 5", 225-pound, blond Simms is the equivalent of football royalty. He is the son of Phil Simms, the former New York Giants quarterback and Super Bowl MVP, and as a senior in high school he was the *USA Today* Offensive Player of the Year.

When coach Mack Brown named Simms his starter entering the 2000 season, many Longhorns fans felt the promotion was based more on pedigree than performance. Applewhite regained the job midway through the season before injuring his right knee. Simms started all 12 regular-season games last year but threw four interceptions (one was returned for a touchdown) in a 14-3 loss to Oklahoma and threw three more in the Big 12 championship game loss to Colorado. In the latter game Applewhite came off the bench to lead a spirited rally that fell just short. Applewhite played the entire Holiday Bowl, a 47-43 shootout win over Washington. Simms's critics say he looks great on the sidelines but doesn't answer the call in big games—at least not as well as the overachieving Applewhite did.

Brown doesn't buy it. As he points out, Simms is 15-4 as a starter (Applewhite was 22-8), with three of the losses coming against Top 10 teams. And Simms's 58.3% career completion rate is a school record. "People hold Chris to a different standard," Brown says. "No quarterback plays well every single game. But Chris has great height, he can really move for a big guy, he has a terrific arm, and he spends countless hours in the film room." Simms is also a football lifer. When someone mentions a January 1986 play-off game between the Giants and the Chicago Bears, he casually offers that he happened to watch tape of that very game a few days before. As much as Simms likes to talk football, though, he's glad that there will be no quarterback controversy in Austin this season. "This year it's just me," Simms says, "and that's good for our team. The focus will be on the team as a whole."

It's a team talented enough to win Texas's first national title in 32 years. Brown's reputation as an ace recruiter was cemented when Simms rescinded an oral commitment to Tennessee and signed with Texas in '99. In his five signing-day classes since taking over at Texas, Brown has reeled in 28 players who made *USA Today's* All-America team. It would be hard for a kid not to be impressed when Brown sits him in his office and lays on the charm, especially since the room is big enough to land a

helicopter in and houses enough Longhorns memorabilia to launch a fair-sized museum. Though Brown chafes at his team's perennial front-runner status in the woefully inexact science of recruiting rankings—after all, if the team with the best players can't win, aren't the coaches to blame?—he knows that acquiring talent is the lifeblood of college football. "We

LONG-ARMED Tight end Scaife is one of a number of big targets in the Longhorns' passing game.



DARREN CARROLL

don't lose too many recruits who come on campus," Brown says. "Not many guys walk out of here without becoming Longhorns."

That talent haul is particularly noticeable at the skill positions. Sophomore tailback Cedric Benson is a 6-foot, 205-pound package of speed and power. He rushed for 1,053 yards—a record for a Texas freshman—and 12 TDs in '01 though he didn't start until the sixth game. When Simms isn't handing off to Benson, he can throw to the wideout trio of Roy Williams, B.J. Johnson and Sloan Thomas or tight end Bo Scaife, a sublimely athletic group of juniors. None are shorter than 6' 1" or weigh less than 200 pounds, and together they combined for 167 catches for 2,206 yards and 17 scores last season. Texas needs to find three new starters on the offensive

line, but that's why Brown stockpiles all those high school All-Americans in the first place. On the other side of the ball the Longhorns must replace six starters on the unit that led the nation in total defense, but with standouts like junior cornerback Nathan Vasher and senior defensive end Cory Redding, Texas won't have a problem stopping teams.

Still, the Longhorns must show that they can convert all that potential into big-game victories. A daunting schedule, including a trip to Nebraska and the showdown with Oklahoma in Dallas, provides plenty of opportunities. "Our motto is, No more excuses," says Simms. "We are extremely talented, and we're not young anymore. We would like to leave our mark. This is our year to do it."

—Pete McEntegart

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 11-2 (7-1, 1st in Big 12 South)

FINAL RANKING: No. 5 AP, No. 5 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

15

Career TD catches by junior wideout Roy Williams, one shy of the school record of 16, set by Mike Adams from 1992 to '96.

FIVE KEY RETURNEES

QB Chris Simms [Sr.]

Seven INTs in team's two losses

RB Cedric Benson [Soph.]

Had 867 yards in final seven games

CB Nathan Vasher [Jr.]

Seven INTs, 15.0 yards on punt returns

LB Derrick Johnson [Soph.]

83 tackles despite just two starts

WR B.J. Johnson [Jr.]

47.4 yard avg. on seven TD catches

ENEMY LINES

An opposing coach's view

A better defensive system makes Texas dangerous



If Chris Simms has a good year they'll be a great team, but I'm still not sold on him. He's got the tools, but it seems like he panics sometimes. He'll always throw picks because he's got a bad habit of really eyeballing where he's going with the ball. . . . Cedric Benson is a good, tough runner. . . . Roy Williams and B.J. Johnson are outstanding receivers. Williams gives you more problems because he's bigger (6' 4"). . . . The difference in the program this year is that Texas is playing much better defense. . . .

Derrick Johnson can track guys down from his linebacker spot, and Cory Redding is a big-time defensive end. . . . Nathan Vasher and Roderick Babers are experienced,

athletic, fast corners. They play a lot of man coverage. . . . Teams that can run and throw the ball well—keep the Longhorns off-balance—

can beat them.

SCHEDULE

Strength: 48th

Aug. 31 NORTH TEXAS

Sept. 14 at North Carolina
21 HOUSTON
28 at Tulane

Oct. 5 OKLAHOMA STATE
12 OKLAHOMA*
19 at Kansas State
26 IOWA STATE

Nov. 2 at Nebraska
9 BAYLOR
16 at Texas Tech
Fri. 29 TEXAS A&M

*at Dallas



5

Florida State

Coming off their worst season in a decade, the Seminoles can't wait to prove they belong among the nation's elite

YOU CAN say this about Chris Rix: He's not afraid to enter the fray. As a redshirt freshman in 2001, he outplayed then sophomore Anquan Boldin in the battle for the starting quarterback job left vacant by Heisman-winner Chris Weinke. He then overcame a shaky 3-2 start and got better each game en route to being named ACC Freshman of the Year. Finally, in a move that had his coaches shaking their heads, Rix ran for vice president of Florida State's 35,000-strong student body last February. "Most football players would never try the crazy things I do," says Rix, whose derring-do has included front flips into the end zone for a score and a dorm-to-dorm political campaign in which he presented starstruck classmates with tiny, personally autographed footballs. "I like challenges."

Though Rix's foray into politics wasn't successful—he and his Garnet and Gold Party running mate pulled just 11% of the votes to finish last in a three-way race—he came out on top in the quarterback battle again last spring. After a season in which his prodigious passing (2,734 yards and 24 touchdowns) was undercut by untimely turnovers (five fumbles and 13 interceptions), Rix held off a formidable challenge from two other candidates, thanks to his strong arm and knowledge of the offense. "Last year we had to be somewhat simplistic in our play-calling," says offensive coordinator Jeff Bowden. "Now that Chris has developed a sense and feel for our system, we can open up a little more."

Racked by injuries and inexperience (15 new starters) in 2001, the Seminoles gave up 356 yards per game and suffered their worst record (8-4) in a decade. That situation has been ameliorated by the return of 17 starters, including junior tackle

Darnell Dockett (22 tackles for loss) and junior linebacker Michael Boulware (81 tackles and three interceptions).

While Dockett and Boulware are the marquee men on defense, senior end Alonzo Jackson, who accounted for five of the team's 14 team sacks last season, will be the Seminole on the hot seat. If he's as combustible during the season as he was in the team's spring game, in which he collected three sacks in dominant fashion, the pass rush should be back up to Florida State's usual high standards come this fall.

The only unit that could surpass the Seminoles' defensive front as the ACC's best is their offensive line. The veteran bunch, led by 6' 6", 310-pound All-America tackle Brett Williams, who had 48 pancake blocks before suffering a season-ending knee injury in November, will make life much easier for Rix. So will the return of wideouts Robert Morgan, a senior, and Boldin, a junior who's back at his natural position after his failed trial at quarterback. Both missed last season with knee injuries, which left Rix with precious few targets to choose from. The 6' 2", 205-pound Boldin, whose confidence and playmaking ability remind Bowden of former Florida State All-America Peter Warrick, could turn out to be the most important weapon in the offense. "Last season was the first time in nine years that we didn't have depth at the receiver position," says Bowden. "We had to count on freshmen to make crucial third-down plays. Having a leader like Anquan back in the mix is huge."

With his teammates eager to prove that last year was an aberration, Rix realizes that consistently strong play, not somersaults, is required of him. In addition to watching videotape nearly every day dur-

RISK TAKER Not afraid to stick his neck out, Rix made his share of mistakes as a freshman, but he still threw for 2,734 yards.



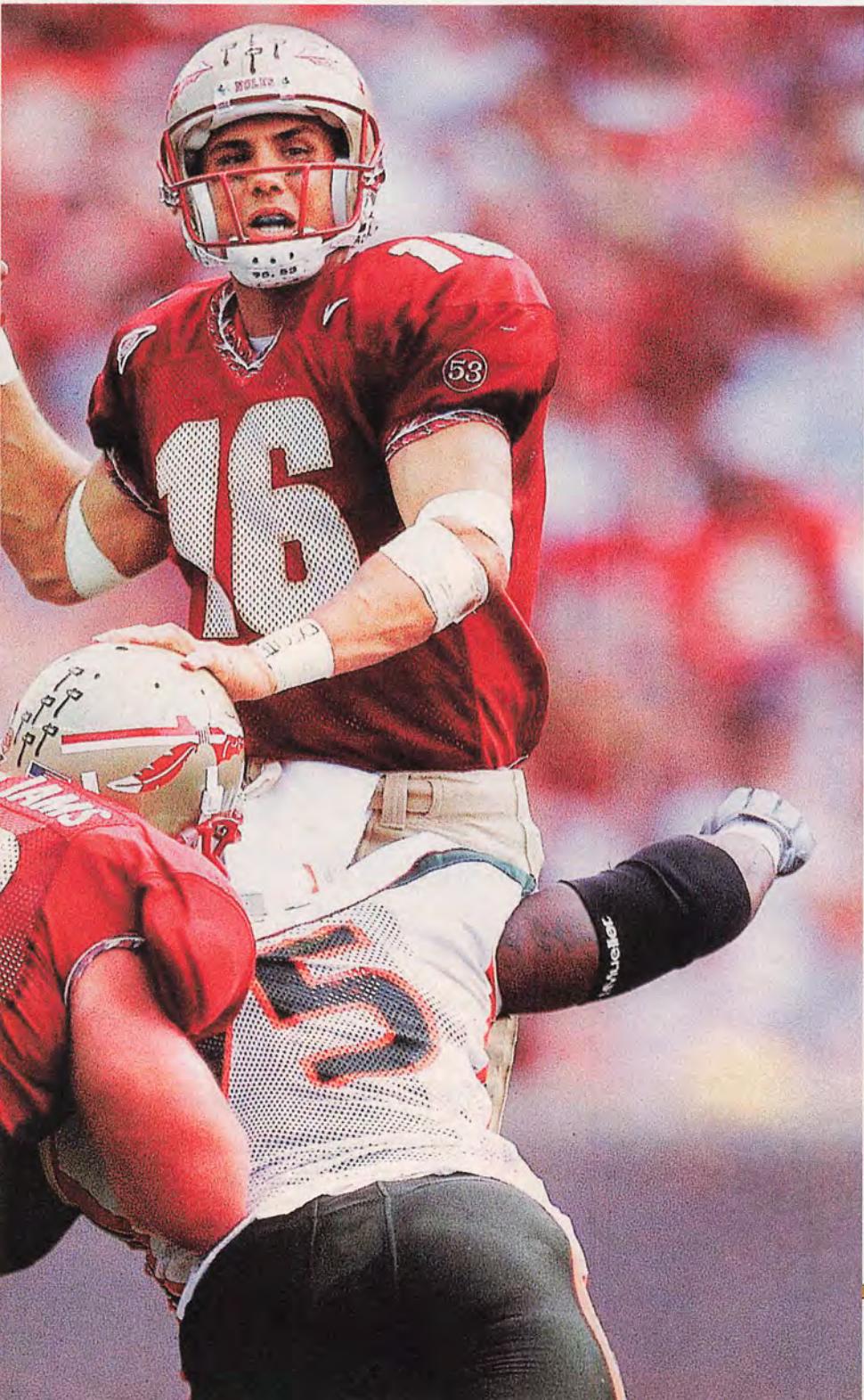
ALTELMANS

ing the off-season, Rix spent May developing a quicker release with the help of Los Angeles-based quarterbacks coach Steve Clarkson, the former San Jose State star who tutors Rix and Tennessee junior Casey Clausen whenever the young signal-callers are home in California. Equipped with a new, over-the-top motion—and an internal drive that could be similarly

described—Rix has grand visions for his sophomore campaign.

"When it comes to this season, no expectations are unrealistic," says Rix. "As long as we continue to work hard, work together and stay healthy, I have no doubt that we'll be in the Fiesta Bowl [playing for the national championship] in January."

—K.K.



FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 8-4 (6-2, 2nd in ACC)
FINAL RANKING: No. 15 AP, No. 15 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

210

Straight weeks in the Top 25 for the Seminoles, from Sept. 26, 1989, until Nov. 18, 2001, a day after their 37-13 loss at Florida.

FIVE KEY RETURNEES

QB Chris Rix [Soph.]
3,123 yards total offense as freshman

LT Brett Williams [Sr.]
ACC's top lineman didn't allow a sack

DT Darnell Dockett [Jr.]
Has 41 career tackles for loss

LB Michael Boulware [Jr.]
Churns a team-best 4.36 in the 40

RB Greg Jones [Jr.]
573 rushing yards in last seven games

ENEMY LINES

An opposing coach's view

After taking their licks, the Seminoles are back



Chris Rix had his rough moments last year, but because they went ahead and played him, Bobby Bowden is going to have a very good quarterback for three years. . . . Their offensive line is as good as any. Center Antoine Mirambeau and guard Montrae Holland have excellent lateral quickness and balance, and they handle twist moves very well. . . . The defensive line's lack of a pass rush last year surprised me. They've always had that good individual rusher. They haven't been a big blitz team because they haven't had to be. I'm going

SCHEDULE

Strength: 6th

Aug. 24 IOWA STATE*

Sept. 1 VIRGINIA

Sept. 14 at Maryland

21 DUKE

26 at Louisville

Oct. 3 CLEMSON

12 at Miami

26 NOTRE DAME

Nov. 2 at Wake Forest

9 at Georgia Tech

16 NORTH CAROLINA

23 at North Carolina State

30 FLORIDA

*at Kansas City, Mo.

to guess that they will generate a pass rush with team pressure when necessary. . . .

Linebackers Michael Boulware and Kendyll Pope can move. That's been the hallmark of their great teams: guys who can chase people down.





She's real fine, my 409
She's real fine, my 409
My 409

-The Beach Boys



6

Colorado

The surprising Big 12 champs will rely on a high-powered offense guided by Boulder-bred quarterback Craig Ochs

T

HE AFTERNOON of Oct. 25, 1986, has an exalted place in Colorado football lore. On that breezy day in Boulder the Buffaloes snapped a streak of 18 straight losses to Nebraska with a 20-10 win that launched Colorado back onto the national stage. The game is also significant because in the Folsom Field stands that day was five-year-old Craig Ochs. A native of Boulder, Ochs was instantly hooked on the team. By nine he was traveling with his family to watch the Buffaloes play in bowl games. By 11 he was sneaking into Colorado practices. By 18 he was a blue-chip high school quar-

RUN FOR IT Brown, who rushed for 946 yards in '01, will team with Purify and Houston to form the nation's top backfield.

terback. Now 20, Ochs, a 6' 2", 210-pound junior, is the Buffaloes' starting signal-caller and the key to Colorado's season.

"For us to have a shot at the Big 12 North title, Craig has to have a great year," says coach Gary Barnett of Ochs, who passed for 1,220 yards and seven touchdowns in seven games before severely spraining his right ankle against Oklahoma State on Oct. 27.

Ochs will have plenty of help. Junior tailbacks Chris Brown and Bobby Purify and sophomore Marcus Houston form arguably the top backfield in the nation. Barnett will play the hottest of the three in the second half of games, a strategy that worked beautifully last year, when Colorado got more rushing yards out of its tailbacks (2,620) than any other team.

While the Buffaloes should be prolific on offense, their defense could keep them from making a run at the national title. Lost in the euphoria of last season's resur-

gence was that over Colorado's last three games (against Nebraska, Texas and Oregon) it gave up an average of 33.0 points and 504.6 total yards. Eight defensive starters return, but the unit's downfall could be its inability to stop the run.

Still, the Buffaloes have mile-high expectations. "We're trying to build off last season," says Ochs, dripping in sweat after taking a break from a mid-July workout. "We want to keep the momentum going."

—Lars Anderson

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 10-3 (7-1, 1st in Big 12 North)

FINAL RANKING: No. 9 AP, No. 9 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

2

Times that Gary Barnett has coached a team to a seven-win improvement. Last year the Buffaloes went from 3-8 to 10-3.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing coach's view

The Buffs have the Big 12's top QB and an innovative attack



Gary Barnett runs the most creative offense in the conference. He does a nice job with his

formations, and his run game is always cutting-edge and extremely hard to defend. . . . That stable of running backs is something else, but the offensive standout this year might be

SCHEDULE

Strength: 21st

Aug. 31	at Colorado State*
Sept. 7	SAN DIEGO STATE
14	USC
21	at UCLA
Oct. 5	KANSAS STATE
12	at Kansas
19	Baylor
26	TEXAS TECH
Nov. 2	at Oklahoma
9	at Missouri
16	IOWA STATE
29	at Nebraska

*In Denver

quarterback Craig Ochs. His arm and athleticism might make him the top QB in the conference. . . . The defense is still developing, but it is extremely fast.

Cornerback Donald Strickland will be the man on defense. He's quick and tough.



7

Washington State

With a potent offense that powered a 10-win season in 2001, the Cougars are the team to beat in the Pac-10



PHOTO BY OTTO GREULE/GETTY IMAGES

N A MATTER of weeks last fall Mike Price, whose Cougars hadn't had a winning season since 1997, went from a man on the hot seat to Pac-10 coach of the year. Washington State stunned just about everyone in college football by jumping to a 7-0 start en route to a 10-2 record. A year later, with 12 returning starters, it's no surprise that the Cougars are shaping up as the best team in the conference.

Eager to prove that it's not a one-year wonder, Washington State has many reasons to be optimistic. For one, seven starters, led by senior quarterback Jason Gesser (3,010 yards, 26 touchdowns), are back from an offense that averaged 35 points per game. For another, the Cougars have a pair of top-flight defensive stoppers in ju-

nior ends D.D. Acholonu and Isaac Brown.

Once a weakness, defense has become a strength for Washington State. When his unit was beset with injuries and academic casualties two years ago, defensive coordinator Bill Doba was forced to play 11 underclassmen. "You don't win with freshmen," Doba says, "but we just didn't have anybody else." The Cougars had the best secondary in the Pac-10 a year ago (26 interceptions), and that gave the young defensive line a chance to mature. This season, with Acholonu and Brown stepping up, Doba hopes the line will stabilize the defense until the young linebackers get comfortable. Doba has high hopes for junior linebacker Ira Davis, who showed flashes of brilliance in limited action last season.

Somebody else likes the Cougars' long-range prospects: ABC Sports asked Washington State and UCLA to move their

AT THE THROTTLE One of seven starters back on offense, Gesser leads an attack that averaged 432.2 yards and 35 points.

Nov. 16 game to a featured time slot on Dec. 7, the last weekend of the regular season. "People don't look at Washington State the same way they do Nebraska or Florida State," Brown says. "When I think of them, I think of winning, great coaches and great athletes. We can have the same thing at Washington State." —I.M.

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 10-2 (6-2, T2 in Pac-10)

FINAL RANKING: No. 10 AP, No. 11 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

42

Points scored last season by the Cougars defense: five touchdowns on interception returns and two on fumble recoveries.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing coach's view

A veteran lineup has to prove that last year was no fluke



They are strong at most skill positions and might have the most experience of any team in the conference. . . . Quarterback **Jason Gesser** doesn't look very pretty out there, but he works hard and gets the job done. He has tons of receivers to throw to, including 6' 6" senior

Mike Bush, which is good because the tailback position is a big question mark. . . . The defense is solid. Their scheme is fairly simple, but they give a lot of different looks. . . . The jury is still out on whether this team will be as good as last year.



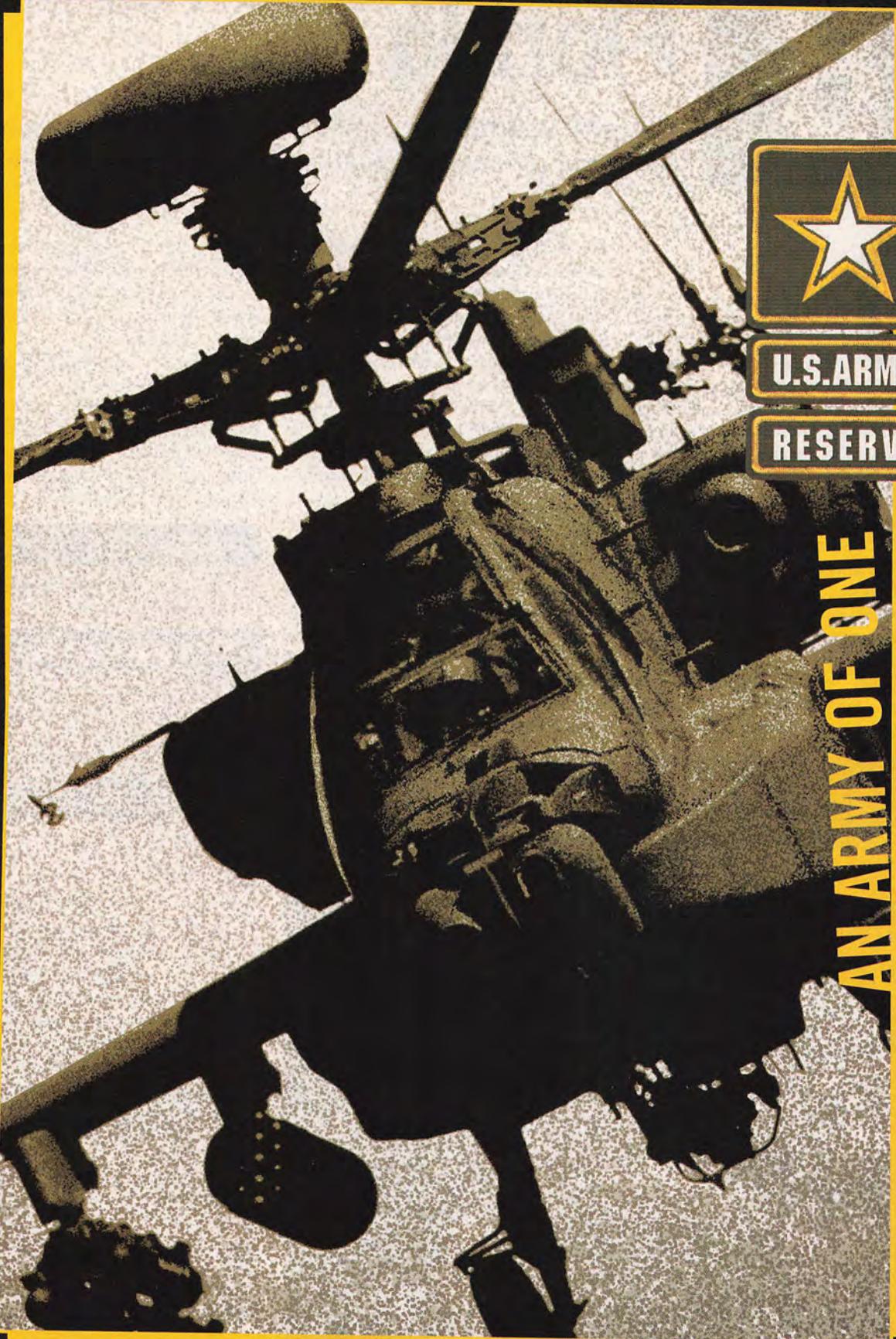
SCHEDULE

Strength: 59th

Aug. 31	NEVADA
Sept. 7	IDAHO
14	at Ohio State
21	MONTANA STATE
28	at California
Oct. 5	USC
12	at Stanford
26	at Arizona
Nov. 2	ARIZONA STATE
9	OREGON
23	WASHINGTON
Dec. 7	at UCLA

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8

Florida

The post-Spurrier era begins with an ultra-intense new coach but the same dedication to the Fun 'n' Gun offense

ONE MORNING in April wide receiver Taylor Jacobs looked up from a weight bench and saw new Gators coach Ron Zook peering down at him. "He was asking me how many reps I'd done, and I called him out," says Jacobs, a senior. "So he brushes me aside, gets down on the bench in his starched shirt and khakis, and punches a bunch of reps. The guy is no joke."

The rest of the college football world might need some convincing. Although he has no head coaching experience beyond high school, the 48-year-old Zook was hired in January to succeed Steve Spurrier,

8 IS ENOUGH The steady, experienced Grossman, 2001's top-rated quarterback, is the right person to run Zook's attack.

who finally made the jump to the NFL after 12 years at Florida. Zook was an assistant under Spurrier from 1991 through '95 and spent the last two years as the New Orleans Saints' defensive coordinator.

Though Zook's high-energy approach is vastly different from Spurrier's aloof style, much about Florida's trademark wide-open offense will remain the same. "My idea is to build on this team's existing strengths," says Zook, "and that's throwing the football." Florida will continue to air it out with junior quarterback Rex Grossman, who led the nation in passing with 354.2 yards per game, and Jacobs (18.7 yards per catch).

Grossman's precise passing—his 170.8 efficiency rating was the best in the country—should help settle an inexperienced group of receivers, and senior Earnest Graham (650 rushing yards and nine TDs in 2001) can be used as something more than an accessory at tailback.

A new multiple 4-3 defense, which first-year defensive coordinator John Thompson brought from Arkansas, features an aggressive secondary, led by two-time All-SEC free safety Todd Johnson.

The task of continuing Florida's high-flying success may be hefty, but Zook isn't about to buckle under the pressure. "I'm not another Steve Spurrier," says Zook, "but we're still going to be one of the most exciting teams in the nation, and we're still going to win a lot of games." —K.K.

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 10-2 (6-2, 2nd in SEC East)

FINAL RANKING: No. 3 AP, No. 3 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

423

Touchdown passes for the Gators since 1990, most of any school over that span. Florida State is second with 330.

ENEMY LINES An opposing coach's view

The Gators have a ton of talent, especially on offense

Rex Grossman throws the best deep ball in the country. He'll pull the trigger to the right guy every time. . . . The two games they lost, tailback **Earnest Graham** didn't play. He was injured most of the season with a sprained ankle. . . . Wideout **Taylor Jacobs** is physical when the ball is in the air. . . . They've got at least nine NFL players on that offense. . . . **Todd Johnson** is a star at free safety. When he is in position to make plays, he makes them. He's a sure tackler and has good hands.

SCHEDULE

Strength: 5th

Aug. 31	ALA-BIRMINGHAM
Sept. 7	MIAMI
14	OHIO
21	at Tennessee
28	KENTUCKY
Oct. 5	at Mississippi
12	LSU
19	AUBURN
Nov. 2	GEORGIA*
9	at Vanderbilt
16	SOUTH CAROLINA
30	at Florida State *in Jacksonville



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9

Oregon

New quarterback Jason Fife has the tools, the support and the self-confidence to fill Joey Harrington's shoes

LIKE NEARLY everyone else on Oregon's campus, coach Mike Bellotti has some advice for junior quarterback Jason Fife, the heir apparent to Joey Harrington, who led the Ducks to their best record (11-1) and their highest ranking (No. 2) ever last season before being drafted third by the Detroit Lions. "Jason shouldn't worry about what Joey has done," says Bellotti. "He needs to be his own person."

Not a problem, according to Fife's teammates. Last year the dirty-blond-haired Fife, a former child actor whose career peaked with a bit part in the 1993 movie

DUCK AND COVER The multidimensional Howry will once again lead one of the most dangerous receiving corps in the nation.

Addams Family Values, tried to bring back the mullet cut, and he may be plotting more tonsorial treachery this year. Fife may be inexperienced—in two years as a backup he attempted just nine passes—but he is bigger, faster and stronger than Harrington. Plus, he's not alone. "Not to take anything away from Joey, but he had a lot of help to look as good as he did, and a lot of that help is still here," says senior All-America Keenan Howry, a receiver and punt returner who has amassed 133 catches, 1,914 receiving yards and 19 touchdowns in three years.

Anchored by sophomore tackles Igor Olshansky and Robby Valenzuela, the defensive line could be one of the strongest in Ducks history. That should take pressure off junior Steven Moore and the other, as-yet-to-be-named cornerback who will replace NFL draftees Rashad Bauman and Steve Smith.

Fife, who was courted only by Oregon and Fresno State coming out of Temescal Canyon High in Lake Elsinore, Calif., knows all about living below the radar. Until now his college football career had resembled his childhood acting career: one bit part and no celebrity. But he is ready for a starring role. "I want to prove to all the naysayers that a small-timer can make a difference," says Fife. "I know I'm going to have to earn any respect I get, but that's the way we do things around here." —Kelli Anderson

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 11-1 (7-1, 1st in Pac-10)

FINAL RANKING: No. 2 AP, No. 2 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

30

Catches needed by Keenan Howry to break the Ducks' record of 162. Howry is 830 yards shy of the team mark of 2,744 receiving yards.

ENEMY LINES An opposing coach's view

The defense has to buy time for a rebuilding offense

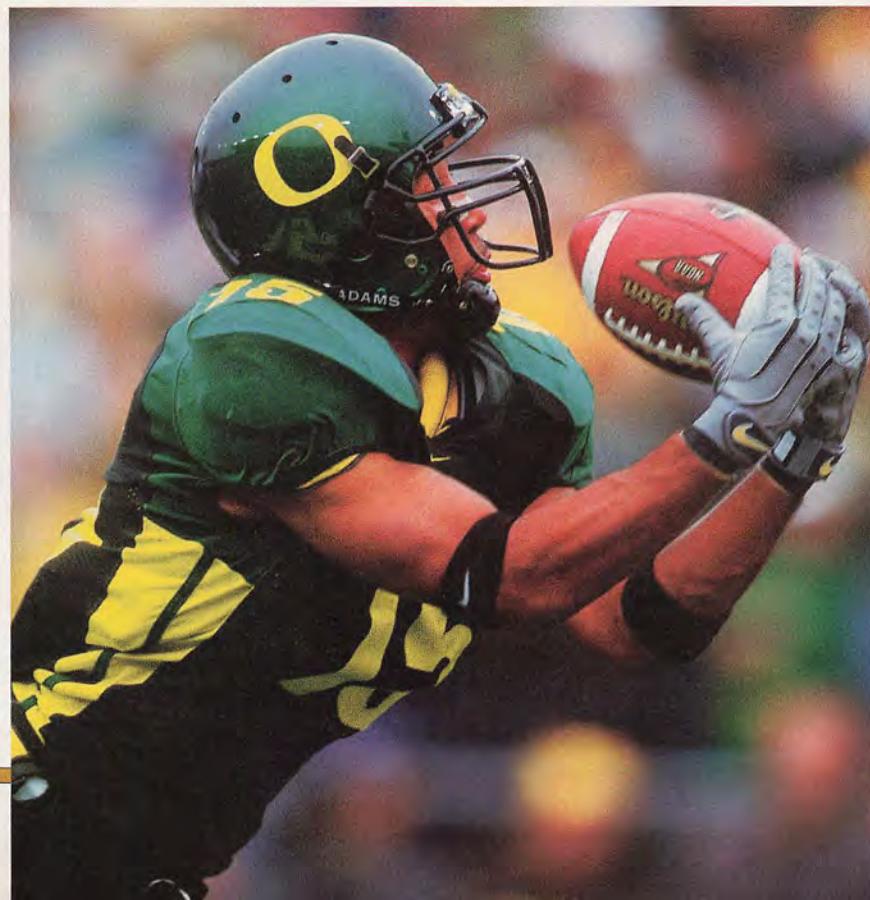
EE Tailback **Onterrio Smith** is very quick and extremely tough to defend. They'll lean on him while the offense gets adjusted to new quarterback **Jason Fife**. . . . Over the last few years they got by with an average defense. But without 30-plus points per game from the offense, the

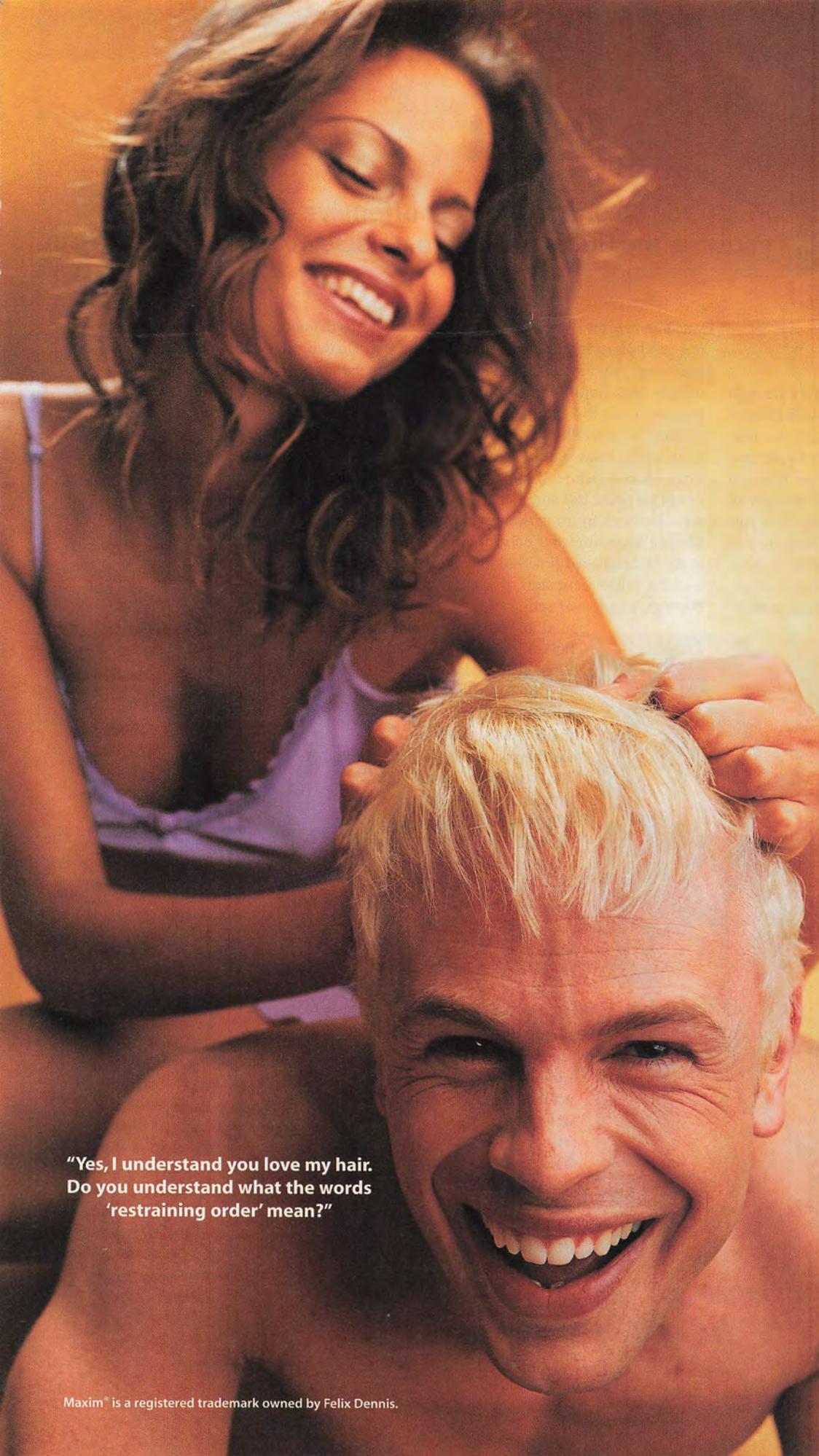
SCHEDULE

Strength: 53rd

Aug. 31	MISSISSIPPI STATE
Sept. 7	FRESNO STATE
14	IDAHO
21	PORTLAND STATE
Oct. 5	at Arizona
12	at UCLA
19	ARIZONA STATE
26	USC
Nov. 2	STANFORD
9	at Washington State
16	WASHINGTON
23	at Oregon State

defense will have to be better than that—and it will be. Defense could be the team's strength. . . . Middle linebacker **Kevin Mitchell** will be the guy everything revolves around. He's always in the right place at the right time.





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10

Georgia

Bolstered by one of the best offensive lines in the country, the Bulldogs look to muscle in on the SEC title

F YOU doubt how hungry Georgia players are for Southeastern Conference supremacy, just consult the waitstaff at the Blind Pig Tavern in Athens. When the Bulldogs' offensive linemen weren't each devouring their weight in wings, ribs and one-pound burgers as part of an effort to increase their weight, they were expounding, business-lunch-style, on the need for their unit to lead by example this season. "When you're looking to moti-

vate linemen, an all-you-can-eat restaurant is a good place to start," says senior tackle and team captain Jon Stinchcomb, who weighs 282 pounds after adding seven pounds to his 6' 6" frame during the off-season. "When talking to the guys during those meals, I saw a gleam in their eyes that I haven't seen before. It's finally our year."

At this point last summer the Bulldogs were focused on transition, not triumph. Florida State offensive coordinator Mark Richt had replaced Jim Donnan as coach, and the subsequent staff overhaul forced the team's fifth-year senior offensive line-

men to welcome their fifth offensive line coach. While getting accustomed to a no-huddle offense and a multiple defense, the Bulldogs seemed to feel their way through the 2001 season and finished third in the SEC East at 5-3. Now, with 15 starters back and Richt's entire staff returning, Georgia should be more poised and more consistent.

None of the Bulldogs are steadier (or headier) than Stinchcomb, a second-team Academic All-America and microbiology major who has yet to miss a blocking or homework assignment at Georgia. The continued outstanding play of Stinchcomb and his beefed-up linemates will be crucial if the Bulldogs hope to match the 432.8

YOUNG GUN David Greene, the SEC's top freshman in 2001, put up record-setting numbers operating the offense.

yards of total offense they averaged in 2001.

On defense, senior linebackers Boss Bailey and Tony Gilbert, who combined for 129 tackles last year, will have to pick up the slack for a defensive line that lost two starters to the NFL.

Richt has enough confidence in his skilled and inspired brood that he can already taste a conference if not a national championship. "I see it in the way the players walk, the way they talk," he says. "We have everything in place to make a great run for it." —K.K.

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 8-4 (5-3, T3 in SEC East)

FINAL RANKING: No. 22 AP, No. 25 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

2,789

Passing yards last year for David Greene, the most ever for a Georgia freshman and the second most for any SEC freshman.

ENEMY LINES An opposing coach's view

The Dawgs are formidable if the running game is in gear



You still have to be able to run in this league to win, and junior tailback Musa Smith, a big back with breakaway speed, is the key to their season. They also have the second-best offensive line in the league. . . . Quarterback David Greene is intelligent, has a good arm and is accurate. . . .

SCHEDULE

Strength: 31st

Aug. 31	CLEMSON
Sept. 14	at South Carolina
21	NORTHWESTERN ST.
28	NEW MEXICO STATE
Oct. 5	at Alabama
12	TENNESSEE
19	VANDERBILT
26	at Kentucky
Nov. 2	at Florida*
9	MISSISSIPPI
16	at Auburn
30	GEORGIA TECH

*In Jacksonville

They lost a lot on defense, but they still have depth and speed. Linebacker **Boss Bailey** is a freak. He can do anything: cover, stop the run, rush the quarterback. . . . Defensive tackle **Johnathan Sullivan** is hard to block one-on-one.



11

Washington

With their rodeo quarterback throwing ropes, the Huskies will score big, keeping the heat off an unproven defense

Q

UARTERBACK Cody Pickett's teammates like to tease him about his growing up on Chicken Dinner Lane in Caldwell, Idaho, the son of former rodeo world champion Dee Pickett and a good enough roper in his own right that he could, he claims, lasso a pigeon. What the Huskies take seriously, however, is Pickett's toughness, which he showed after separating his right shoulder in the third game last season. Says coach Rick Neuheisel, "He reminds me of the guy in the Monty Python movie who gets his arm chopped off and says, 'Flesh wound!'"

PURPLE BLAZE The speedy Williams, a true freshman last season, set team records with 55 catches and 973 yards.



PETER READ MILLER

Pickett didn't merely play with pain; he excelled despite it. After sitting out one game, he passed for a school-record 455 yards and three touchdowns in a 31-28, come-from-behind win over Arizona, one of five fourth-quarter comebacks he engineered during Washington's 8-4 season. The 6' 4", 205-pound Pickett, who underwent shoulder surgery last January, also set school marks last season for passing yardage per game (240.3) and completions of 50 yards or more (five). One of his favorite targets was 6' 4" wideout Reggie Williams, who set conference freshman records in receptions (55) and yards (973).

Thanks in large part to Pickett and Williams, Washington scored 353 points during the season—almost as many as its injury-plagued defense allowed (370). The Huskies, whose rushing D was last in the conference, gave up a combined 112 points

in their final two games alone, losses to Miami and Texas.

That unit now has a year of experience—23 lettermen return, including five starters. Despite the questions surrounding the defense, Williams is characteristically confident about Washington's prospects. He's planning on a trip to the Fiesta Bowl, where he wants to play "some team from the South," he says. "People say those teams are the best anywhere. Well, I beg to differ."

—K.A.

FAST FACTS**2001 RECORD:** 8-4 (6-2, T2 in Pac-10)**FINAL RANKING:** No. 19 AP, No. 19 coaches' poll**TELLING NUMBER****-17**

Point differential for the Huskies in '01, only the second time in 25 years that Washington had given up more points than it scored.

ENEMY LINES An opposing coach's view

A big-time wideout and a solid line will carry the Huskies



Quarterback **Cody Pickett** was flustered at times last year, and after starting for a full season, there will be pressure on him to perform. . . . Wideout **Reggie Williams** is a big-time player. He has natural field sense and wants the ball on every play. . . . The offensive line is pretty stacked

SCHEDULE

Strength: 62nd

Aug. 31	at Michigan
Sept. 7	SAN JOSE STATE
21	WYOMING
28	IDAHO
Oct. 5	CAL
12	ARIZONA
19	at USC
26	at Arizona State
Nov. 2	UCLA
9	OREGON STATE
16	at Oregon
23	at Washington State

and will be the soul of the team. . . . If they can rebuild the line, the defense could be a force. Guys like linebacker **Kai Ellis** have paid their dues and are ready to dominate. . . . The kids believe in **Rick Neuheisel**.

“”

12

Ohio State

After tackling their one defensive weakness, the Buckeyes are ready to claim the Big Ten championship

D

EFENSE WILL separate the Buckeyes from the rest of the Big Ten this season—that is, assuming coordinator Mark Dantonio has addressed his unit's glaring weakness. Ohio State had the best pass defense in the conference (holding opponents to an efficiency rating of 107.6) yet still finished next to last in third-down conversions allowed (87 of 189, 46%). With three losses coming by a total of eight points, a few more stops could have made a big difference.

To stiffen the defense, Dantonio will deploy the Buckeyes in less press man cov-

SHIFT OF POWER Grant (6) showed last year that he could knock down balls as a corner; now he'll knock heads at linebacker.

erage. Above all, though, he has stressed to his players that they're a year older and a year smarter, and they have to make plays. During the spring he brought his top seniors in for regular 7 a.m. film study. "The idea was that we'd be able to tell freshmen during practice what went right and what went wrong," says strong safety Mike Doss. "We spent the whole off-season looking for things we can do differently."

Doss won't have to change much. He led the team in tackles (87), tackles for loss (10) and fumble recoveries (four) and even blocked two kicks. "He wants to make every play," Dantonio says. "If he has a weakness, that's it. He has to be disciplined." The defensive front is solid from tip to tip. Then there's Cie Grant, a 6'1", 220-pound senior who started 10 games at corner last year but will return to weak-side linebacker. "When he's in, we have 4½ defensive backs in the game," Dantonio

says. "When we're in nickel, we have 5½."

On the other side of the ball, Ohio State has four tailbacks—Maurice Clarett, Maurice Hall, JaJa Riley and Lydell Ross—good enough to make significant contributions. That eases the concerns at quarterback, where junior Craig Krenzel is expected to win the job from classmate Scott McMullen.

But as the D goes, so go the Buckeyes. Early games against pass-happy Texas Tech and Washington State will reveal how well those 7 a.m. study sessions went. —I.M.

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 7-5 (5-3, 3rd in Big Ten)

FINAL RANKING: not ranked

TELLING NUMBER

17

Age of tailback Lydell Ross when he ran for 124 yards against Indiana—the youngest Big Ten player ever with a 100-yard game.

ENEMY LINES An opposing coach's view

Doss is boss: The senior safety makes this D click



Their defense thrives on applying pressure, and their blitz can change the complexion of a game.

But that system leaves the secondary exposed, which could be a problem without a guy like [NFL draft pick] Derek Ross back there at corner. . . . Even with the uncertainty at

SCHEDULE

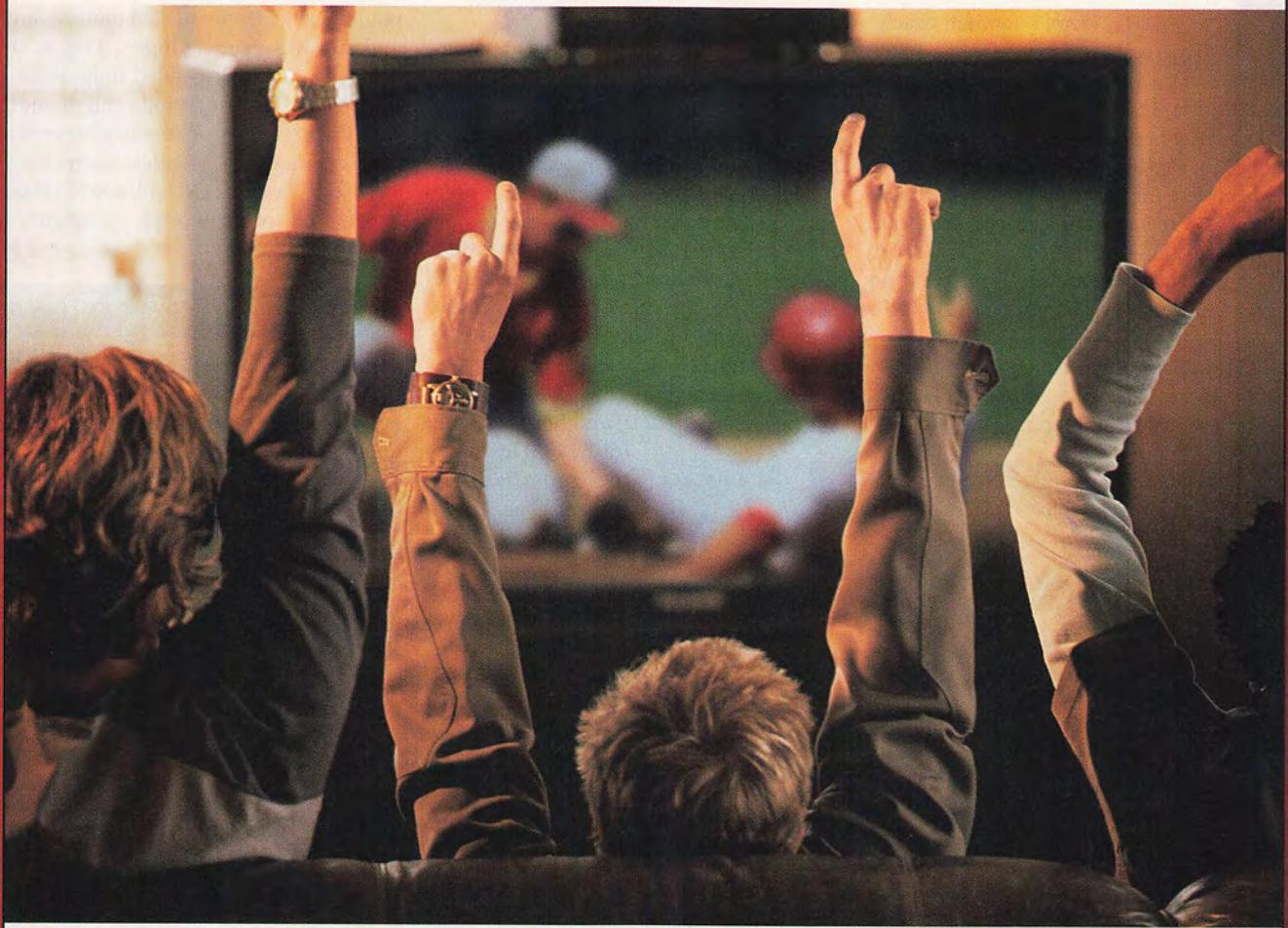
Strength: 36th

Aug. 24	TEXAS TECH
Sept. 7	KENT STATE
14	WASHINGTON ST.
21	at Cincinnati
28	INDIANA
Oct. 5	at Northwestern
12	SAN JOSE STATE
19	at Wisconsin
26	PENN STATE
Nov. 2	MINNESOTA
9	at Purdue
16	at Illinois
23	MICHIGAN

one cornerback, the secondary is the team's strength, since they have the best defensive back in the country in Mike Doss. The kid is phenomenal. He hits like a Mack truck. His energy on the field seems to get the team's engine running.



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13

LSU

Coming off a surprising SEC title, the Tigers plan to climb even higher—and you can quote their coach on that

LIKE MANY football coaches, Nick Saban loves his aphorisms and metaphors. His latest exhortation to his players is the catchy, "Last year is history, next year is a mystery." He also likes to compare the coming season to climbing a mountain. Last season LSU reached an unprecedented peak, upsetting Tennessee 31–20 to win the SEC Championship Game for the first time since the game was instituted in 1992. To

BREAKING AWAY Toefield left a trail of battered foes in his wake last year, rushing for 992 yards and an SEC-record-tying 19 TDs.



Saban, that makes this year's ascent trickier than ever. "The mountain just got bigger," he says. "It's even more treacherous and harder to climb."

If repeat SEC championships are unfamiliar on the Bayou—LSU's only back-to-back titles came in 1935 and '36—so too is all this talk about mountains. The state's highest point is 535 feet above sea level.

The play of senior linebacker Bradie James, a Louisiana native, is a big reason LSU can expect to rise above most rivals. The 6' 3", 238-pound senior has had more than 110 tackles in each of the past two seasons. This year he moves from the outside to the middle. His job will be much easier if massive sophomore defensive ends Marcus Spears (6' 5", 280) and Marquise Hill (6' 7", 285) live up to the promise they showed as high school All-Americans.

The defense may need to hold the fort as the offense searches for a new identity. With strong-armed quarterback Rohan Davey and Biletnikoff Award winner Josh Reed gone to the NFL, the Tigers will likely rely more on the run this year. Sophomore quarterback Matt Mauck terrorized Tennessee with the quarterback draw when he replaced an injured Davey in the SEC title game, but he needs to be more consistent as a passer. The Tigers are banking on the return of junior tailback LaBrandon

Toefield, who has recovered from the torn left ACL he suffered in the conference championship game. The 6-foot, 225-pound Toefield, who rushed for 992 yards and an SEC-record-tying 19 TDs in '01, brings some much-needed toughness to the Tigers. "He just pounds and pounds," James says. "After a while teams get tired of hitting him. He's a relentless competitor."

That's an attitude LSU will need in abundance if it expects to reach the heights of last season.

—P.M.

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 10–3 (5–3, 1st in SEC West)
FINAL RANKING: No. 7 AP, No. 8 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

5

Seasons in the 108 years of LSU football in which the Tigers have won at least 10 games; no two such seasons have been consecutive.

ENEMY LINES OAn opposing coach's view

The Tigers boast a solid quarterback and an able D



Quarterback **Matt Mauck** is poised and mature, but I'm not sure he's got the arm needed to make plays.

He's got the feet, though, and is more of a runner than **Rohan Davey** was. . . . Their defense is good, but I don't think it's great. At end, **Marcus Spears** is a 280-pound guy who can get up the field. He'll give them a speed rush. . . .

SCHEDULE

Strength: 43rd

Sept. 1 at Virginia Tech
7 THE CITADEL
14 MIAMI (OHIO)
28 MISSISSIPPI STATE

Oct. 5 LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE
12 at Florida
19 SOUTH CAROLINA
26 at Auburn

Nov. 9 at Kentucky
16 ALABAMA
23 MISSISSIPPI
30 at Arkansas



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14

Nebraska

After their humiliating finish to the 2001 season, the Cornhuskers are looking to restore their good name

ALL THROUGHOUT the spring and summer, the Cornhuskers heard the rumblings. On campus, at grocery stores, in coffee shops, the players overheard fans wondering if the Nebraska program has, like a house with termites, fallen into decay. It's a fair question to ask after the Cornhuskers' season-ending defeats to Colorado (62-36) and Miami (37-14 in the Rose Bowl), two lopsided losses that overshadowed an 11-2 record and an appearance in the national title game. "Losing those games," says senior running back Dahrran Diedrick, "was like getting stabbed."

LINGERING PAIN Diedrick, who led the team in rushing last year, says losing to Colorado and Miami "was like getting stabbed."

Whether the Cornhuskers fully recover depends on the play of 6' 3" junior quarterback Jammal Lord, who over the last two seasons has rushed 50 times and thrown 24 passes as Eric Crouch's backup. The fleet Lord traveled an unlikely path to Lincoln. While growing up in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, he started playing football as a 10-year-old on a dirt lot strewn with rocks and glass shards. After Lord's family moved to Bayonne, N.J., he developed into a strong-armed option quarterback. "We're still going to be a running team, but we'll be more well-rounded," says coach Frank Solich. "Jammal is like [former Huskers quarterbacks] Tommie Frazier and Scott Frost in that he's very confident."

Under almost as much scrutiny as Lord will be third-year defensive coordinator Craig Bohl. In both losses last season the defense was a step too slow, and to help offset that deficiency, Bohl will employ more

zone coverage than in years past. Two speedy newcomers—linebacker Demorrio Williams, a junior college transfer, and freshman cornerback Fabian Washington—are being counted on to make an immediate impact.

Experience may be a problem for the Cornhuskers, who have only five starters back on each side of the ball, but motivation won't be. "Our last two games were not easy," says Solich. "But from within the program there's no sense that we're sliding."

—L.A.

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 11-2 (7-1, 2nd in Big 12 North)

FINAL RANKING: No. 8 AP, No. 7 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

208

Consecutive home games since the Cornhuskers were shut out at Memorial Stadium. Kansas State won 12-0 on Nov. 9, 1968.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing coach's view

Quick fixes will prevent Nebraska from dropping far



After what Colorado and Miami did to them, they're going to make some changes on defense.

Switching from man-to-man to more of a zone concept should help them. . . . Quarterback Jammal Lord may not be Eric Crouch, but Crouch wasn't heralded when he started out either. . . . That offensive staff has been together a while and knows how to groom quarterbacks. . . . The idea that Nebraska is going to fall this year is baloney. If they do, it will be to, like, eighth in the nation.

SCHEDULE

Strength: 61st

Aug. 24	ARIZONA STATE
31	TROY STATE
Sept. 7	UTAH STATE
14	at Penn State
28	at Iowa State
Oct. 5	MCNEESE STATE
12	MISSOURI
19	at Oklahoma State
26	at Texas A&M
Nov. 2	TEXAS
9	KANSAS
16	at Kansas State
29	COLORADO



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Virginia Tech

After too many months spent knee-deep in injuries, the Hokies hope to show that they're on the road to recovery

VIRGINIA TECH'S current designation as ACL U has more to do with anterior cruciate ligaments than with the protection of civil liberties. Starting quarterback Grant Noel tore his left ACL in April during a noncontact drill, and rather than opt for reconstructive surgery—which would end his college career—Noel, a fifth-year senior, will play with the tear. He spent the past four months strengthening his knee through exercise and physical therapy.

Noel's injury is not the first ACL nightmare for Virginia Tech. Senior running back Lee Suggs (1,207 yards, 27 touch-

downs in 2000) was lost for the 2001 season after he tore his left ACL in last fall's opener against Connecticut. After reconstructive surgery, Suggs says his knee is feeling as good as new. How the fragile ligaments of Noel and Suggs hold up will determine whether the Hokies will be a national power or a knock-kneed also-ran. "Playing after [Michael Vick], there have been a lot of critics, and that motivates me," says Noel, who promises to be under center against Arkansas State on Aug. 25. "I'd like to shut all those people up."

If Noel can't make it through the season, coach Frank Beamer has a talented sophomore quarterback in Bryan Randall and a heralded freshman recruit named Marcus Vick (brother of you know who). The backfield should be among the best in the country with Suggs and a star-in-the-making in sophomore Kevin Jones (957 yards in '01). Aside from health, the biggest question is

whether the inexperienced receivers can take the pressure off the tailbacks.

On defense Virginia Tech must replace six starters. While junior linemen Nathaniel Adibi and Cols Colas and a veteran secondary should help, the Hokies suffered yet another heartbreak when junior cornerback Eric Green tore his left ACL in late July during a workout. So it goes for ACL U. "We're a team that's hard to put a true evaluation on," says Beamer. "There are just a lot of unknowns."

—Richard Deitsch

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 8-4 (4-3, T3 in Big East)

FINAL RANKING: No. 18 AP, No. 18 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

83

Big East wins for the Hokies since conference play began in 1993, the most of any member school. Miami is second with 82.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing coach's view

The big, talented Hokies have an abundance of weapons



At 6 feet and 211 pounds, tailback Kevin Jones is strong and physical. He runs a little too upright, but when he gets out in the open he's something. . . . Quarterback Grant Noel doesn't make mistakes. He controls the tempo of the game. . . . Center Jake Grove, tackle Anthony Davis and guard Luke Owens are solid. . . . The defense has a hard-nosed, blue-collar mentality. . . . Safety Willie Pile is a quasilinebacker. If you don't watch him, he'll make a lot of plays at the line of scrimmage.

SCHEDULE

Strength: 47th

Aug. 25 ARKANSAS STATE

Sept. 1 LSU

12 MARSHALL

21 at Texas A&M

28 at Western Michigan

Oct. 10 at Boston College

19 RUTGERS

26 TEMPLE

Nov. 2 PITTSBURGH

9 at Syracuse

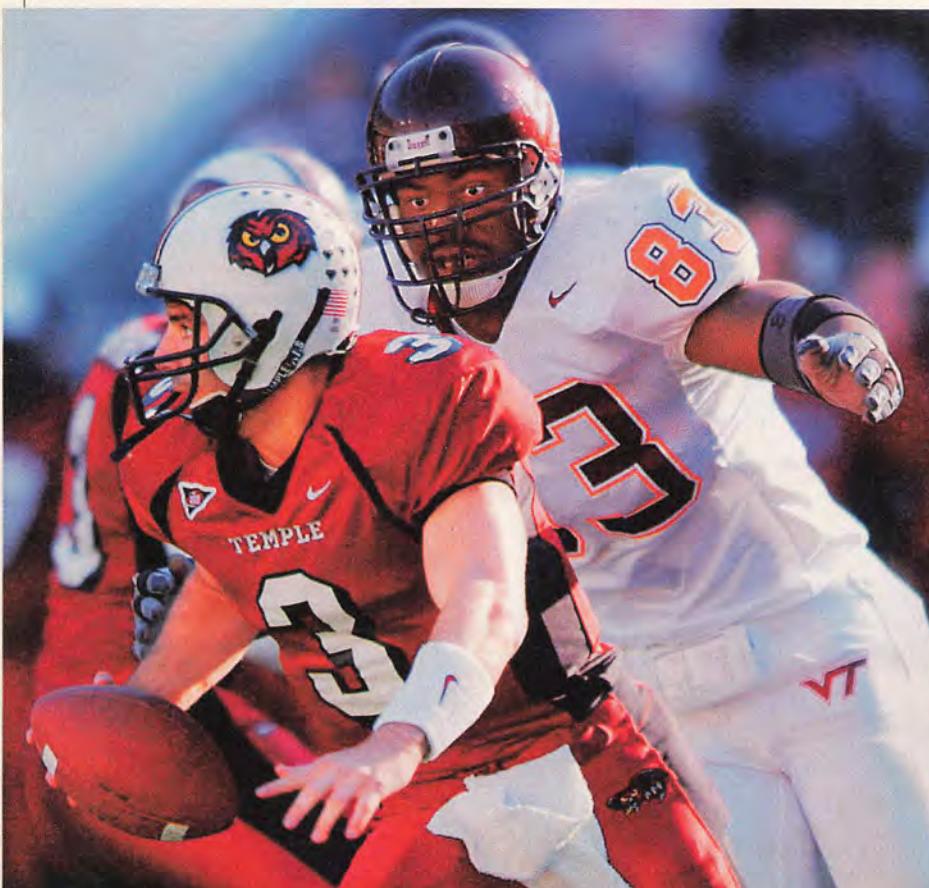
20 WEST VIRGINIA

30 VIRGINIA

Dec. 7 at Miami

99

DOUG PENNINGTON/GETTY IMAGES



16

Maryland

Now that everyone is committed to the program, the Terps are ready to prove that last season was no shell game

ARE YOU in or are you out? Those words were repeated over and over by first-year coach Ralph Friedgen during the Terrapins' 2001 season, which culminated in their first ACC title in 16 years. Last February, as word got out that Friedgen was up for an NFL job, the Terps turned the tables. When Friedgen arrived for a 5:45 a.m. workout, he found players waiting for him. Junior cornerback Dennard Wilson asked, "Are you in or are you out?"

Friedgen's decision was clear. "I'm in," he said. "Let's get to work." He and his players then turned to the task of proving that

FEAR THE TURTLE The diminutive but dangerous Perry, the reigning ACC rushing champ, has the skills to back up his swagger.

Maryland's third winning season in 14 years was no fluke. "Last year the kids made a commitment to me," says Friedgen, "and I realized it was my turn. We've got plenty left to do. This program has not yet arrived."

One Terrapin who arrived was junior tailback Bruce Perry, the ACC's top rusher (1,242 yards) and offensive player of the year. The 5' 9" 196-pounder has 4.46 speed (he often quotes Jay-Z as he dances past defenders, telling them, "Come and get me if you want me") and sure hands (his 359 receiving yards were third most on the team). Maryland will rely heavily on him while it breaks in a new quarterback. Sophomore Chris Kelley, who tore his right ACL in April, may be ready midway through the season, but until then transfers Scott McBrien, who had one career start for West Virginia, and Orlando Evans, who threw for 2,391 yards and 28 touchdowns at City College of San Francisco, will vie for the job.

The defense showcases Butkus Award finalist E.J. Henderson (103 solo tackles) at linebacker, but with only five returning starters, it's inexperienced. Says coordinator Gary Blackney, "Some of these guys are going to have to learn quickly." They won't have much time: Maryland opens against Notre Dame on Aug. 31 and two weeks later plays Florida State at home. "Last year everything was new to us," says Perry. "Now we know what it takes to show that this program is here to stay."

—Albert Chen

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 10-2 (7-1, 1st in ACC)

FINAL RANKING: No. 11 AP, No. 10 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

390

Points scored in the 2001 regular season, bettering the Terrapins' previous record for an 11-game season of 353, set in 1982.

ENEMY LINES An opposing coach's view

Against the Terrapins, job No. 1 is to handle Henderson



You scheme to try and stop **E.J. Henderson**. He's accounted for in your protection. But he's likely to run right over your blocker. A lot of their blitzes are set up for linebackers **Leon Joe** and **Henderson**. . . . Tailback **Bruce Perry** is a

SCHEDULE

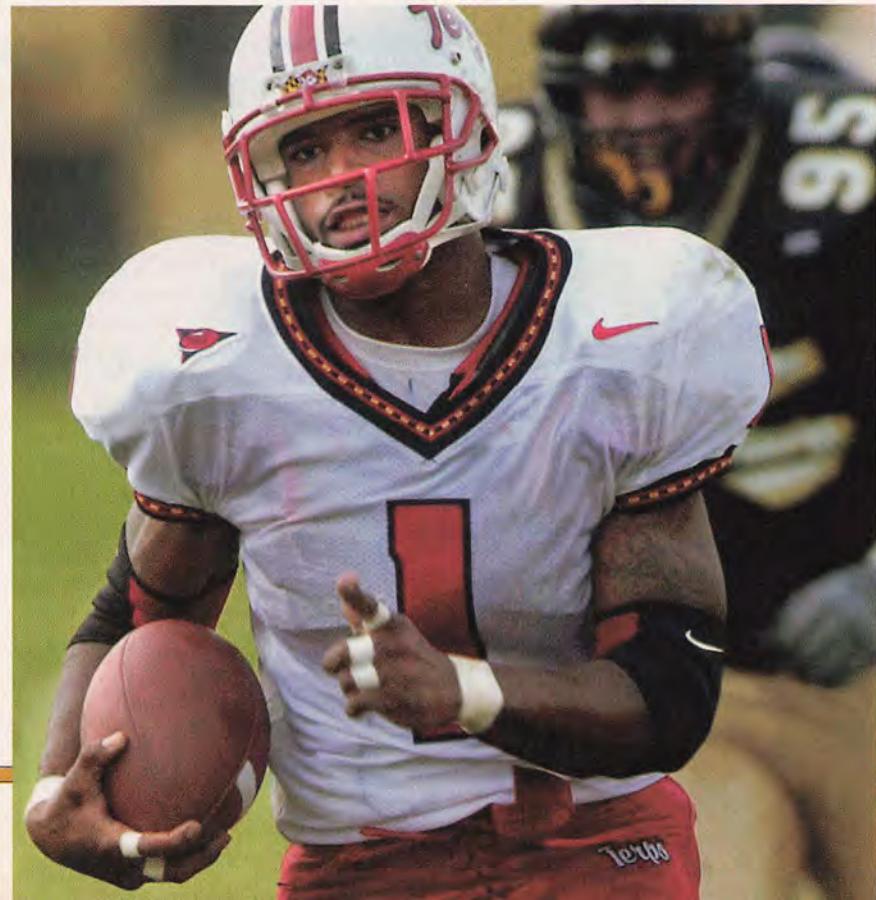
Strength: 65th

Aug. 31	NOTRE DAME*
Sept. 7	AKRON
14	FLORIDA STATE
21	EASTERN MICHIGAN
28	WOFFORD
Oct. 5	at West Virginia
17	GEORGIA TECH
29	at Duke
Nov. 2	at North Carolina
9	NO. CAROLINA STATE
16	at Clemson
23	at Virginia
30	WAKE FOREST

*at East Rutherford, N.J.

physical runner who can also make you miss. The question is at quarterback, but coach **Ralph Friedgen** did a great job getting **Shaun Hill** to manage the game last year. It was phenomenal that he could teach his system and get them to execute it in one year.

55



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17

Marshall

The high-flying Herd must round up a decent defense if it expects to earn an invitation to the BCS dance



T

HEY WERE embarrassed. Humiliated. "Absolutely disgusted," says Marshall free safety Chris Crocker. "For those of us who have some pride, last year was difficult to swallow." Yes, the Thundering Herd went 11-2 and earned its fourth consecutive bowl win, but to the defensive players the season was a disaster. They ranked last in the MAC and 106th in the nation against the run (217.8 yards per game) and gave up an average of 25.7 points. Having analyzed every play on which the Herd gave up seven or more yards rushing in 2001, defensive coordinator Bill Wilt says, "This year we're going to simplify things."

Thanks largely to an offense that averaged 37.3 points and a MAC-record 505.0 yards in '01 and has 10 starters returning, Marshall enters the season heavily favored to win its fifth MAC championship in six years. Heisman candidate Byron Leftwich (4,132 passing yards and 38 touchdowns) will again play ringmaster to a dazzling aerial circus, throwing to a trio of talented receivers in senior Darius Watts (1,417 receiving yards and 18 touchdowns), senior Denero Marriott (800 yards, nine touchdowns) and sophomore Josh Davis (79 catches, an NCAA freshman record). Running back Franklin Wallace is also healthy after rushing for 796 yards and nine TDs despite nagging injuries.

If Marshall can beat Virginia Tech on Sept. 12 in Blacksburg, it has a good shot

OVER THE TOP Wallace, last year's leading rusher, gives the Thundering Herd a potent ground game to complement its air show.

at going undefeated for the second time in four years—and at gaining a BCS bid. But for the Herd to do that it will need to be effective on both sides of the ball. "We can't wait to flush last season down the tubes," says Wilt. "Everyone knows how great the offense is. Imagine how great this team will be if we get the job done on defense."—A.C.

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 11-2 (8-0, 1st in MAC)

FINAL RANKING: Not ranked AP, No. 21 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

352.0

Yards of total offense per game for quarterback Byron Leftwich, 2.9 behind the leader, Florida quarterback Rex Grossman.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing coach's view

Gifted QB Byron Leftwich will make opponents pay



Byron Leftwich is very accurate and has a nice touch. He's got a good arm, mobility, a tremendous understanding of what they do. I think he's the best QB in the country. . . . Their wide receivers are all equally talented. **Darius Watts** is very good, but if you double-cover one, Leftwich will make you pay. . . . If you had to point out a weakness, it's the defense.

SCHEDULE

Strength: 113th

Aug. 31	APPALACHIAN ST.
Sept. 12	at Virginia Tech
	20 CENTRAL FLORIDA
Oct. 5	at Kent State
12	BUFFALO
19	TROY STATE
26	at Central Michigan
Nov. 2	at Akron
12	MIAMI (OHIO)
23	at Ohio
30	BALL STATE

"

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14

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18

South Carolina

Lou Holtz proved he could take the Gamecocks to the elite level—now the job, just as tough, is to stay there

DURING ONE practice last fall, backup quarterback Corey Jenkins misread a play and then badly overthrew a pass to the wrong receiver. That immediately drew the ire of coach Lou Holtz, who got in Jenkins's face. "How can you be a quarterback and not know how to throw the ball?" Holtz screamed. "You will never, ever play quarterback at the University of South Carolina!"

Less than a year later Jenkins, a senior, is the Gamecocks' starting quarterback. With the graduation of Phil Petty, Holtz turned to Jenkins, a 25-year-old former outfielder in the Red Sox and White Sox organizations.

GROUND BEEF The 250-pound Pinnock will anchor a bruising running game that should take pressure off raw quarterback Jenkins.

Jenkins isn't the only new face: After a 9-3 season and back-to-back bowl victories for the first time in school history, South Carolina lost 13 starters and is in a transition year. "We've got a lot of question marks this year," Holtz says. "This is the kind of season I like."

Though he can throw the ball more than 70 yards, the 6' 2", 222-pound Jenkins has struggled at times. (He threw three interceptions the first week of spring practice.) In Holtz's conservative multiple scheme, Jenkins, who has 4.5 speed, will often take the ball and run. That's when he's not handing off to senior running backs Andrew Pinnock (6 feet, 250 pounds) or Ryan Brewer, who anchor what should be a punishing ground game.

On defense the Gamecocks have a lot of holes to fill. Seven starters, including five who were NFL draft picks, are gone from a unit that carried the team the last two years,

ranking sixth in scoring defense in 2000 and 12th in '01. (The offense was 72nd in scoring both years.) Sophomore defensive end George Gause, who had a team-high 10 tackles in South Carolina's Outback Bowl victory over Ohio State, has emerged as the defense's star, but he'll need help.

Jenkins, for one, isn't worried. He says his side can pick up the slack. "I've told the defense they're allowed to give up 21 points a game," Jenkins says. "The offense will take care of the rest."

—Gene Menez

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 9-3 (5-3, T3 in SEC East)

FINAL RANKING: No. 13 AP, No. 13 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

6

Gamecocks games decided by five points or fewer. They won five of those, including a 31-28 Outback Bowl win over Ohio State.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing coach's view

A wide array of sets forces opponents to be flexible



They are a spread-out, ball-control passing team, with occasional vertical plays and power runs. . . .

They lost a good deal on defense. They're pretty good up front. I was very impressed with noseguard Langston Moore. He's broad, a little squat, a good leverage player with good lateral quickness. . . .

The tailback, Ryan Brewer, gives them the versatility to go with a two-back or a four-wide-receiver formation without changing personnel. Opposing defenses have to be especially flexible to adjust.

“

SCHEDULE

Strength: 15th

Aug. 31	NEW MEXICO ST.
Sept. 7	at Virginia
14	GEORGIA
21	TEMPLE
28	at Vanderbilt
Oct. 5	MISSISSIPPI STATE
12	at Kentucky
19	at LSU
Nov. 2	TENNESSEE
9	ARKANSAS
16	at Florida
23	at Clemson





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19

Louisville

With stars on both sides of the ball, the Cardinals and their adventurous coach are in for an exciting ride

FREE-FALLING from 11,000 feet one afternoon in mid-July, John L. Smith wouldn't pull his rip cord. The 53-year-old Cardinals coach and rookie sky diver, who enjoys life by pushing it to the limit (he has also run with the bulls in Pamplona), had already fallen 5,000 feet, but he ignored instructors yelling at him to pull the cord. "I guess I was enjoying the ride a little too much," says Smith, who landed safely thanks to an instructor who pulled the cord for him.

STALKER Laroni Gallishaw, who had five interceptions in '01, is just one of the big-time ball-hawkers on a standout Cardinals defense.



Expect Smith and Louisville to have a similarly exciting ride this season. Coming off an 11-2 season, the Cardinals have high hopes with Heisman Trophy candidate Dave Ragone (3,056 yards, 23 TDs in 2001) at quarterback and 10 starters returning from an underappreciated defense. A Sept. 26 home game against Florida State has Louisville setting its sights on making another big jump, to BCS contender.

With the pass-happy offense forced to replace four starters on the line and two receivers, defense is Louisville's strength. The 4-3 unit has become a fast, blitzing, ball-hawking group that ranked 10th in the country last season in scoring defense (17.9 ppg). The star is 6' 3", 277-pound junior end Dewayne White, last year's Conference USA Defensive Player of the Year.

White uses a combination of quickness and strength to get to the quarterback. Last season he was second in the nation with 15 sacks. "He doesn't know any better," says senior end Devon Thomas. "Coach will say, 'I need you to take out the center, the fullback and make the tackle, too.' He'll say, 'Yes sir,' and do it."

If White can get his teammates to adopt that attitude, Louisville should be in for an exciting ride.

—G.M.

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 11-2 (6-1, 1st in Conference USA)
FINAL RANKING: No. 17 AP, No. 16 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

17

Career interceptions for senior free safety Anthony Floyd, most among current I-A players and a team and conference record.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing coach's view

The running game is the big question facing the Cardinals



Quarterback **Dave Ragone** really understands their offense. He's a good decision-maker and throws well on the move. . . . Tight end **Ronnie Ghent** runs good routes and is a solid blocker. . . . A balanced running game is critical to that offense. The big question is: do they have a reliable tailback? . . . Defensive end **Dewayne**

SCHEDULE

Strength: 70th

Sept. 1	KENTUCKY
7	at Duke
14	at Colorado State
21	at Army
28	FLORIDA STATE
Oct. 8	at Memphis
19	TCU
26	EAST CAROLINA
Nov. 7	CINCINNATI
14	at Southern Miss
23	ALA.-BIRMINGHAM
30	at Houston

White is a pass-rushing monster. Coming off the edge like he does really disrupts things. . . . They expect their safeties to be big hitters, and free safety **Anthony Floyd** is a very physical guy who covers a lot of ground.



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Michigan

A dominating defense will keep the Wolverines in games, but their supersized running backs must also come up big

ASKED TO explain his offensive philosophy, Terry Malone, who was promoted from quarterbacks coach to offensive coordinator at the end of last season, sketches out "a system that will take advantage of our players. We are going to be a physical team, but we have to get the ball to our playmakers." Asked who those playmakers are, Malone laughs and says, "Good question."

That's the rub for the Wolverines. Seven starters return from the elite defense that allowed 19.8 points and 318.4 yards per game, both best in the Big Ten, but the loss

EXPECTED TO FLY Michigan is counting on Perry (495 rushing yards in '01) to play a key role in an offense still searching for stars.

to the graduation of wideout Marquise Walker (86 receptions for 1,143 yards and 11 touchdowns last season) leaves an already struggling offense without a consistent big-play threat. As a result Malone has recast the attack and made establishing the run a priority, a challenge for a unit that last season gained just 3.6 yards per carry and 143.0 yards per game, eighth in the conference. "We start with being physical, an attitude that will affect the entire offense," Malone says. "We're going to knock people off the ball and give our backs a chance to get up into the hole and hit a defensive back, as opposed to trying to avoid a guy at the line."

Spearheading the offense will be 6' 3", 228-pound senior B.J. Askew, who rushed for 902 yards and 10 touchdowns last season. Because of his value as a pass catcher, pass protector and lead blocker on counters and off-tackle runs, Askew will work as the fullback in multiple-back packages, but he'll also get touches as a single back. At tailback 6' 1", 235-pound junior Chris Perry (495 rushing yards, two touchdowns) completes a supersized backfield.

The offense's most nagging question is at quarterback: John Navarre was last year's starter, but the junior's poor decision-making (he completed only 53.8% of his passes and threw 13 interceptions) and his lackluster conditioning drew criticism. Coach Lloyd Carr has so far refrained from picking between him and junior Spencer Brinton. "Brinton has an outstanding arm, and he improved significantly this spring," Carr says. "I look at it as, we have two guys who are going to compete and they'll make each other better."

Defense won't be an issue. Senior Dan Rumishek (22 tackles, seven sacks) and junior Shantee Orr (35 tackles, six sacks) were ends on a line that helped produce a conference-high 50 sacks last season, and senior linebacker Victor Hobson (80 tackles, five sacks) excels at both blitzing and pass coverage. The focus, then, remains squarely on the offense. Malone's ability to wring consistent point production from a playmaker-free cast will determine Michigan's fate.

—Daniel G. Habib

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 8-4 (6-2, 2nd in Big Ten)

FINAL RANKING: No. 20 AP, No. 20 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

20

Straight seasons in which the Wolverines have won their Big Ten opener; they last dropped their first conference game in 1981.

ENEMY LINES An opposing coach's view

A lack of offensive stars has left the Wolverines vulnerable



Quarterback John Navarre has done some good things. He's one of the top three or four guys in the league. But his mobility is not great, and he wasn't good at finding the secondary receiver when he couldn't go to Marquise Walker. For that reason they're going to miss Walker a

SCHEDULE

Strength: 3rd

Aug. 31	WASHINGTON
Sept. 7	WESTERN MICHIGAN
14	at Notre Dame
21	UTAH
28	at Illinois
Oct. 12	PENN STATE
19	at Purdue
26	IOWA
Nov. 2	MICHIGAN STATE
9	at Minnesota
16	WISCONSIN
23	at Ohio State

lot . . . They also lost some awfully good players on the offensive line. That's a big factor. When it really got down to their running the ball, we stopped them. . . . The big question this year is whether Chris Perry is the answer at tailback.

“ ”



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the baby and e-mailed them
to the in-laws, maybe they
wouldn't visit as often. WAIT.
What if that just made them
want to visit more?

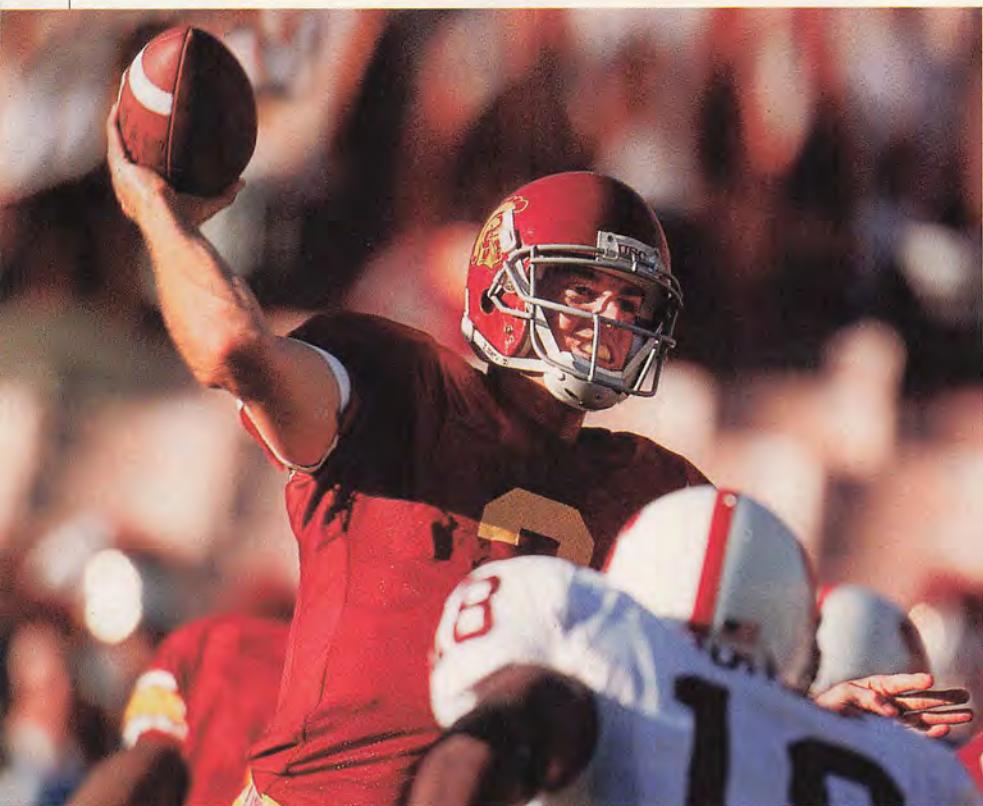


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21 USC

This season will determine whether the five-year investment in a potentially perfect quarterback pays off



TROJANS FANS, take heart. Carson Palmer says he has finally grown up. The senior quarterback, blessed with a cannon of a right arm and a 6' 6", 235-pound body fit for the NFL, has the natural tools to make pro scouts drool. But since leading USC to an 8-5 record in 1998 as only the second true freshman in school history to start at quarterback, the mellow Orange County native has been maddeningly underachieving.

In the following three seasons (he red-shirted after injuring his shoulder in '99) Palmer played erratically, throwing for more interceptions (33) than touchdowns (32). "I never realized how hard I had to work," he

says. This off-season Palmer has spent more time in the weight room (he's bulked up 15 pounds) and watched more tape than ever.

Palmer is finally ready to live up to his billing and will have his best supporting cast yet. Eight starters return on offense, including senior wide receiver Kareem Kelly (801 yards), who's on the verge of setting school records for career receptions and receiving yards. Even the running game, which averaged a Pac-10-worst 95.5 yards, looks strong with the addition of senior Michigan transfer Justin Fargas.

The defense features All-America strong safety Troy Polamalu (118 tackles, 13 for loss), but with only five returning starters it's coach Pete Carroll's biggest concern. "We will be challenged right away," says Carroll, alluding to the Trojans' schedule,

CARSON, DAILY Palmer has been the Trojans' starter forever, but for all his gaudy stats he has yet to haul USC back to the glory days.

which kicks off with nonconference games against Auburn, Colorado and Kansas State. To get through the brutal slate, USC will count on a big year from its hungry-to-succeed quarterback. "I haven't accomplished nearly what I expected to," Palmer says. "This is my last chance, and I've never felt better and more ready."

—A.C.

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 6-6 (5-3, 5th in Pac-10)
FINAL RANKING: not ranked

TELLING NUMBER

22

Seasons in which one Trojans player has had more rushing yards than the 1,052 the entire team had last year.

ENEMY LINES

An opposing coach's view

The key is confidence in the coaches and one another



We'll have to wait and see if quarterback **Carson Palmer** is a winner, but you can count on receiver **Kareem Kelly**'s having an outstanding season. . . . The defensive front doesn't have a lot of experience, but tackle **Shaun Cody** and end **Kenechi Udeze** are reliable. . . . They have an outstanding leader in safety **Troy Polamalu**, who's always around the ball. . . . The team crumbled in recent years, and the kids stopped believing in their coaches. It seems they have started to believe in coach **Pete Carroll**.

SCHEDULE

Strength: 1st

Sept. 2	AUBURN
14	at Colorado
21	KANSAS STATE
23	OREGON STATE
Oct. 5	at Washington State
12	CALIFORNIA
19	WASHINGTON
26	Oregon
Nov. 9	at Stanford
16	ARIZONA STATE
23	UCLA
30	NOTRE DAME





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22

Texas A&M

For the Aggies, a touch of family values and a heaping helping of healthy living will add up to big improvement

STARTING QUARTERBACKS at major colleges typically attract devoted fans. But few boosters have the rooting interest of seven-year-old Kameryn Farris, whose dad is Texas A&M's Mark Farris. One reason that Farris, 27, pulled the plug on a minor league baseball career in 1998 was to be closer to his young family (Mark and his wife, Neocia, also have a four-month-old girl, Kendyll). "It's been a good experience

TOPSY-TURVY With 39 catches in '01, Taylor shined in a shaken-up offense; imagine what he'll do with healthy players around him.

for my family, and especially for Kameryn," says Farris, a shortstop who in 1994 was a first-round pick of the Pittsburgh Pirates. "There aren't many kids who will remember their dad playing college football."

Last year's A&M offense was easy to forget, thanks largely to injuries. Top wideout Bethel Johnson ruptured his spleen in the second game and missed the rest of the year. By the seventh game of the season, all four scholarship tight ends had suffered season-ending injuries, forcing A&M to press a freshman defensive lineman into emergency service. Six freshmen, only one of them a redshirt, started at least one game on offense. After winning seven of their first eight games, the Aggies lost the last three of the regular season. Yet when

looking back, Farris turns strangely optimistic. "As banged up as we were, we were still able to finish 8-4," he says. "Hopefully we can build on that this year."

One reason for hope: All those kids who were forced into action last year are now veterans. Johnson will give his senior year another try, and sophomore Terrence Murphy and junior Jamaar Taylor emerged in his absence. Senior speedster Dwain Goynes will move from receiver to running back and will be a change-of-pace complement to tailback Derek Farmer. Four starters are back on the line.

The Aggies know that their season hing-

es on how the offense performs, because, as coach R.C. Slocum succinctly puts it, "We are going to play good defense." Seven starters are back on the traditionally stingy unit, led by senior Ty Warren (first-team All-Big 12), who moves from tackle to end this year; senior cornerback Sammy Davis (five interceptions); and senior outside linebacker Jarrod Penright (10½ sacks). If they can get help from Farris & Co., the Aggies should give Kameryn plenty to cheer about.

—P.M.

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 8-4 (4-4, T3 in Big 12 South)
FINAL RANKING: not ranked

TELLING NUMBER

305.7

Total offensive yards per game for the Aggies last season, the fewest since the team averaged 276.2 in 1972.

ENEMY LINES An opposing coach's view

A solid defense will give the offense time to catch up



Tailback **Derek Farmer** can be an All-America or just a regular guy. It all depends on the play of the line, which has no stars. . . . **Mark Farris** has the skills, and he's highly competitive. But the Aggies had three new offensive coaches last year, and it takes time for a quarterback to

SCHEDULE
Strength: 19th

Aug. 31	LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE
Sept. 7	at Pittsburgh
21	VIRGINIA TECH
28	LOUISIANA TECH
Oct. 5	TEXAS TECH
12	at Baylor
19	at Kansas
26	NEBRASKA
Nov. 2	at Oklahoma State
9	OKLAHOMA
16	MISSOURI
29	at Texas

adjust. . . . **Brian Gamble** won't be a first-round pick, but he's a tough linebacker who makes plays. . . . Up front, you have to double **Ty Warren**. When they go to a third-down package, they move him around. You'd better know where he is.



23

Auburn

With their powerful sophomore back finally repaired, the Tigers look to ride Cadillac to the top of the SEC West

CARNELL (CADILLAC) Williams was rolling. The Auburn tailback entered last year's Iron Bowl battle with Alabama having rushed for 344 yards in the previous two games. The Tigers were 7-2 and needed a single win in their final two games to clinch the SEC West title. Cadillac, then a freshman, tore off 25 yards on the game's first play with a breathtaking run in which he reversed field after getting bottled up. But after his fifth carry of the drive Williams dragged himself to the sideline, his left clavicle broken. Thus ended the season for both Williams and Auburn, which was rolled by the Tide 31-7 and finished 7-5. "When Carnell got hurt you could just tell that every-

body else lost their confidence," says Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville.

With Cadillac—the 5' 11", 193-pounder got the nickname for his smooth running style while at Etowah (Ala.) High—in the shop for the rest of the season, the focus was on the quarterback duel between sophomore Jason Campbell and senior Daniel Cobb, who split duties last year. That proved the undoing of offensive coordinator Noel Mazzone, who was replaced in January with Bob Petrino, the offensive coordinator for the Jacksonville Jaguars. The battle between Campbell and Cobb, who received a sixth year of eligibility from the NCAA for 2002 but has seen just eight games' worth of action, will continue into two-a-days.

The defense, which has a new coordinator of its own in Gene Chizik, should be strong. Seven starters are back, including junior outside linebacker Dontarrious Thomas (a team-best 122 tackles in '01), who heads a deep and talented linebacking group. Senior placekicker Damon Duval

was a finalist for the 2001 Lou Groza Award.

Still, when Tuberville sits down at Byron's barbecue joint for his weekly lunch with the Auburn faithful, much of the talk will be about how well Cadillac is running. His teammates, who are tired of trying to tackle the now-healthy Williams in practice, are eager to see him set loose on opponents again. "When he got hurt, it made us a little flat," says junior linebacker Karlos Dansby. "But now he's patched up and ready to ride."

—P.M.

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 7-5 (5-3, T1 in SEC West)

FINAL RANKING: not ranked

TELLING NUMBER

3

Consecutive losses by the Tigers to end the 2001 season, the team's longest year-end losing slide since it dropped four straight in 1976.

ENEMY LINES An opposing coach's view

Quarterback is the last puzzle piece for the talented Tigers



If they get the quarterback squared away, they'll be really good. **Jason Campbell** was just young last year, and young is scary with the speed and athleticism in this league. . . . Tailback **Carnell Williams** is a difference maker. They'll give it to him 35 times and control the game. . . . Tight end **Lorenzo Diamond** is athletic and strong and tough. . . .

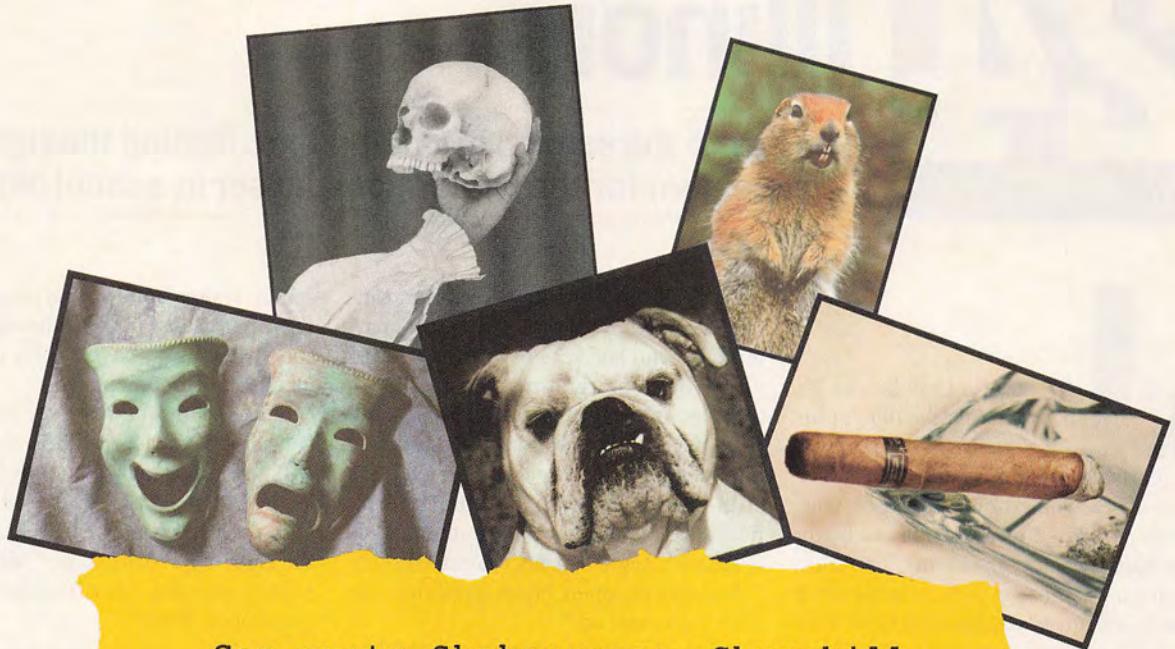
SCHEDULE

Strength: 30th

Sept. 2	at USC
7	WESTERN CAROLINA
14	VANDERBILT
19	at Mississippi State
28	SYRACUSE
Oct. 12	ARKANSAS
19	at Florida
26	LSU
Nov. 2	at Mississippi
9	LOUISIANA-MONROE
16	GEORGIA
23	at Alabama

They've got a good defense. Tackle **DeMarco McNeil** is quick for a big man and plays hard. . . . In **Damon Duval** they have the best kicker in the league. He'll win three games by himself.





Can quote Shakespeare, Churchill
and "Caddyshack."



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Illinois

The key to the season in Champaign: finding the right replacement for the winningest passer in school history

JON BEUTJER knows he has to master the Illini's pro-style offense in order to win the quarterback job this fall. So the junior signal-caller, who sat out last season after transferring from Iowa, spends two hours after dinner each night in the film room, scrutinizing game tape with the same ardor most college guys have for *Girls Gone Wild* videos. His bedtime reading is the Illini's Yellow Pages-sized playbook. "I fall over that playbook when I get out of bed," Beutjer says, laughing. "I'm constantly visualizing situations and thinking about plays."

Beutjer is battling last year's backup quar-

terback, Dustin Ward, to succeed Kurt Kittner, the program's alltime winningest quarterback, who last season threw for 3,256 yards and 27 touchdowns, leading Illinois to its first outright Big Ten championship since 1983. "In the ideal situation, we'd have named the starter after spring ball," says sixth-year Illinois coach Ron Turner, whose final decision may not come until the week of Illinois's Aug. 31 opener against Missouri. "That didn't happen, but in a positive way. Both guys came on."

Beutjer has more game experience than Ward—at Iowa he completed 61.6% of his passes for 841 yards and six touchdowns in 2000—but Ward, a fourth-year junior who has thrown only 70 passes as a collegian, better understands the Illinois offense. "With the set of receivers we have, the quarterback needs to do his job and make the right reads," says Turner, referring to junior wideout Brandon Lloyd and

senior Walter Young, who combined for 1,952 yards and 18 touchdowns last season. "He doesn't have to play on fire, he just has to play efficiently."

Since the bulk of the roster is status quo (14 starters return), the Illini's title defense will depend primarily on how well Beutjer or Ward replaces Kittner. "We both want to be the starter, and we both are preparing the right way," Ward says. "We are going to have a quality QB at Illinois." The only question is, Who?

—D.G.H.

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 10-2 (7-1, 1st in Big Ten)

FINAL RANKING: No. 12 AP, No. 12 coaches' poll

TELLING NUMBER

40

Team record for sacks, set last year, when four defenders had five or more and 18 players had at least one.

ENEMY LINES An opposing coach's view

Kittner may be gone, but the passing game is still a threat



Ron Turner's offense puts tons of pressure on the quarterback to make plays. **Dustin Ward** is an unknown, but **Jon Beutjer** did show potential while at Iowa. . . . Illinois's big, tall wideouts create huge mismatches. **Brandon Lloyd** is an elusive player who makes things

SCHEDULE

Strength: 52nd

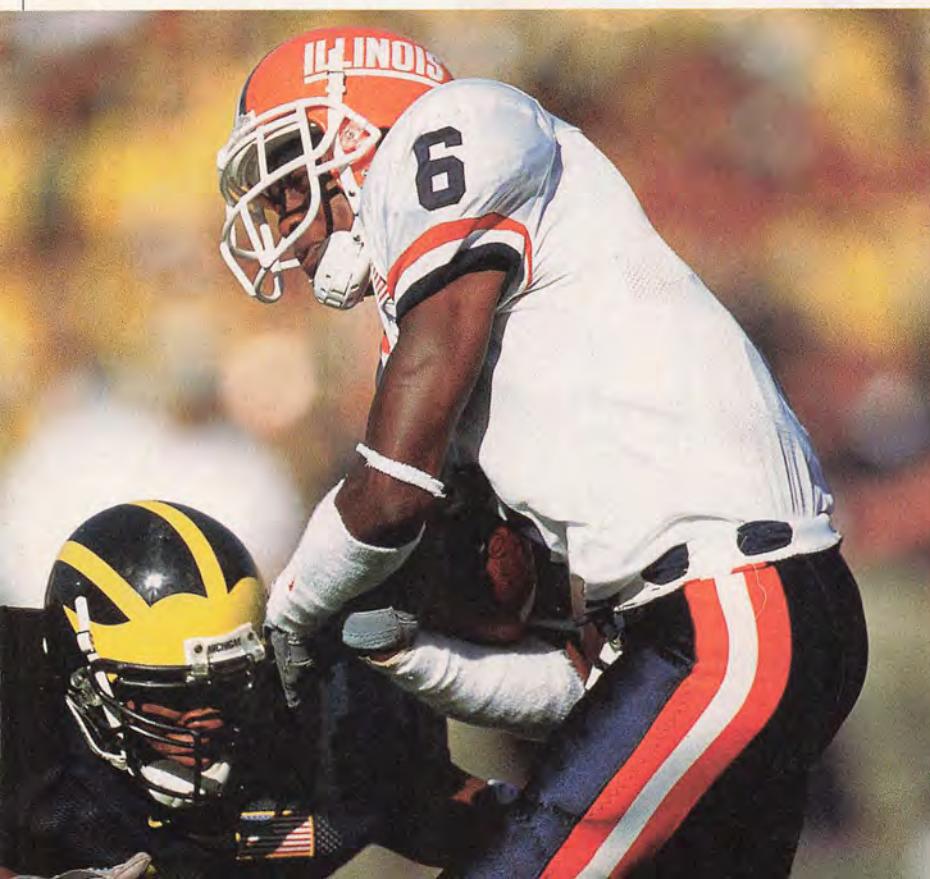
Aug. 31	at Missouri*
Sept. 7	at Southern Miss
14	ARKANSAS STATE
21	SAN JOSE STATE
28	MICHIGAN
Oct. 5	at Minnesota
12	PURDUE
26	INDIANA
Nov. 2	at Penn State
9	at Wisconsin
16	OHIO STATE
23	at Northwestern

*in St. Louis

happen. . . . The line's toughness will be a factor, since they don't have a big-time tailback. . . . The defense isn't the fastest, but it beats you up. The line is stacked, and they're solid at corner with star

Eugene Wilson.

“ ”



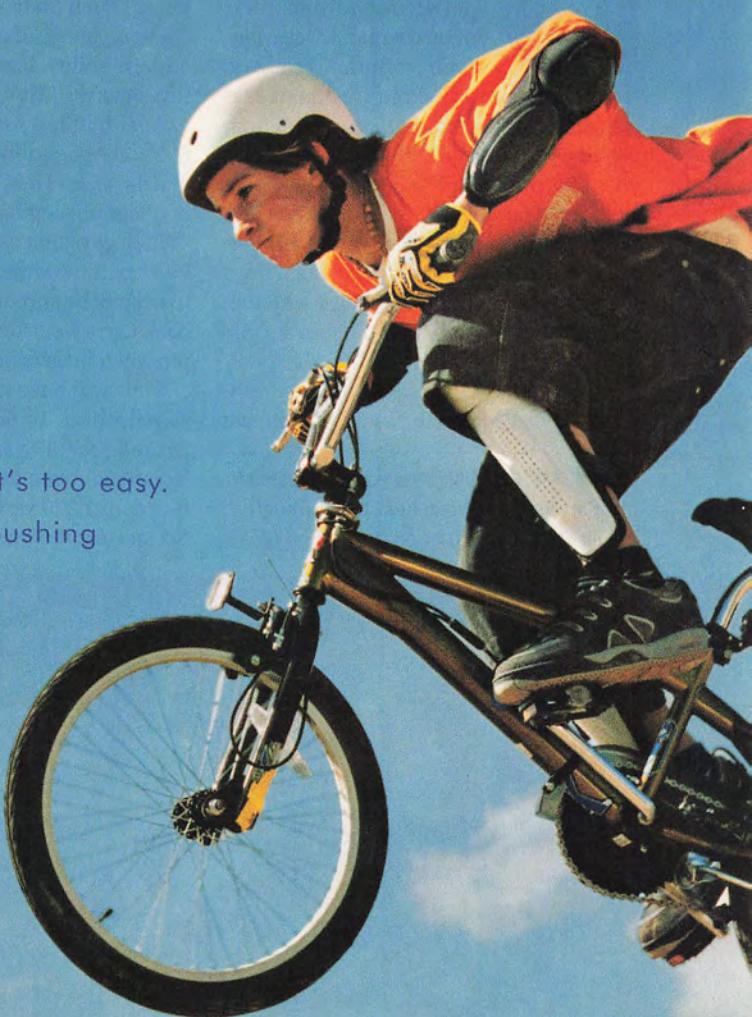
They will always fall before they fly

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25

Penn State

After back-to-back losing seasons, the Nittany Lions are hanging their hopes on sophomore quarterback Zack Mills

DURING A mid-July work-out quarterback Zack Mills, seven months removed from his record-breaking freshman season, received some impromptu advice from coach Joe Paterno. "We were laughing about the attention I've been getting," says Mills, who became the toast of Happy Valley by throwing for 1,669 yards, a freshman record, and nine touchdowns. "Then Coach said something that stuck with me: 'All that attention is like poison. It only kills you if you swallow it.'"

Mills was lauded for invigorating a moribund offense after the Nittany Lions had

LIONHEARTED Mills, who gave his team life after an 0-4 start, can beat foes through the air (1,669 yards) or on the ground (187).

stumbled to an 0-4 start. Handed the reins late in the fifth game, at Northwestern, Mills engineered a game-winning drive and then helped Penn State win four of its final six. "Mills is young, he's bright and he's got good athletic ability, but he's got a ways to go," says Paterno. "He's not Moses yet."

A lefthanded passer, Mills combines a 6' 2", 215-pound frame with 4.6 speed and a rifle arm. He's comfortable running bootlegs or keeping the ball on the option. "When guys first see him, they're like, 'Oh, he's a natural white quarterback, he's going to drop back and throw,'" says senior tailback Larry Johnson. "But he deceives people when he gets out and runs."

Mills will have several skilled Johnsons to help him. In addition to Larry, who rushed for 337 yards in 2001, wideouts Bryant Johnson and Tony Johnson combined for 1,370 yards and six touchdowns. Six starters return on defense, none more

imposing than tackles Anthony Adams (59 tackles) and Jimmy Kennedy (51).

Although Mills and his mates prevented a disastrous season, the Lions' 5-6 record still meant that Paterno had consecutive losing records for the first time in his 36-year head-coaching career. Several players said that alleviating criticism of the 75-year-old Paterno is a motivating force. "I appreciate that," says Paterno, "but I've had great days, more than my share. I want them to win for themselves." —D.G.H.

FAST FACTS

2001 RECORD: 5-6 (4-4, T4 in Big Ten)

FINAL RANKING: not ranked

TELLING NUMBER

1,317

Rushing yards last season for the Nittany Lions, eclipsing the previous team low of 1,689, set in 1963 in one fewer game.

ENEMY LINES An opposing coach's view

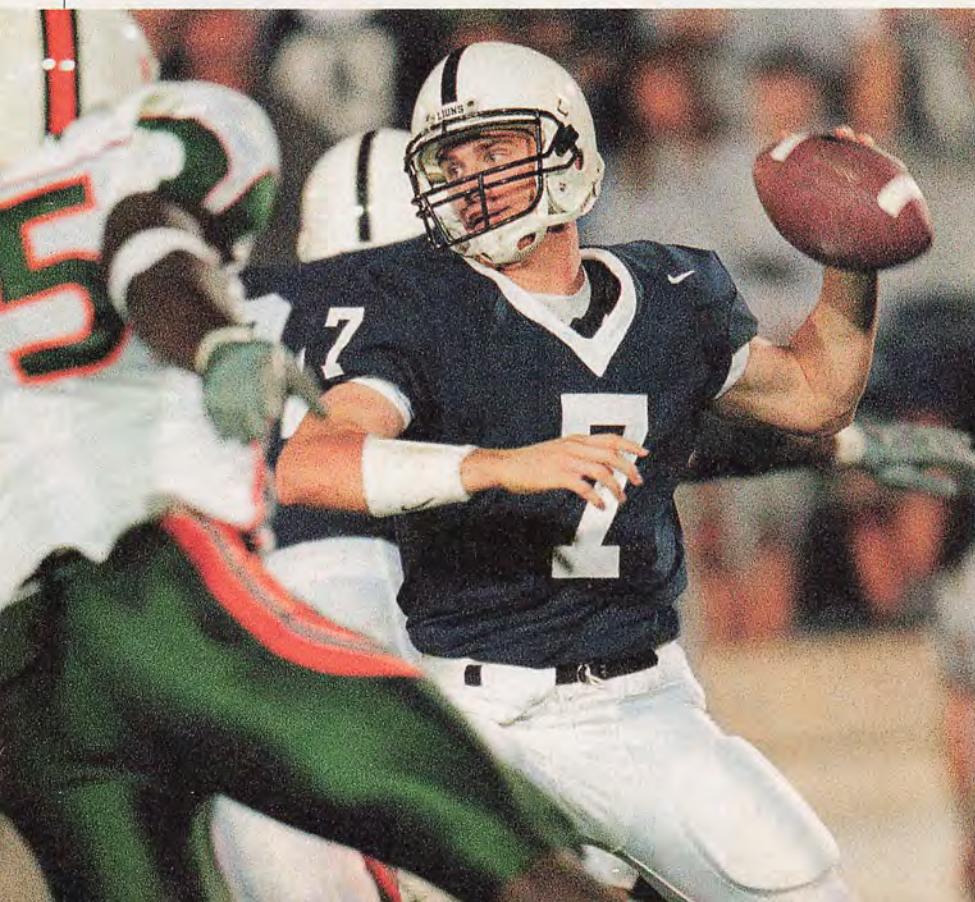
The Nittany Lions have the weapons to bounce back



It's a tribute to **Joe Paterno** that the team didn't fall apart last year. . . . Quarterback **Zack Mills** is a damn good football player. It's a combination of his arm and his ability to make plays. . . .

Wideout **Bryant Johnson** can separate from the defensive backs. . . . They've got four good defensive linemen back.

Jimmy Kennedy is a handful and will probably be a first-round draft pick. He moves around very well. They slant him so he doesn't get doubled, but I don't think you can block him one-on-one.



SCHEDULE

Strength: 11th

Aug. 31	CENTRAL FLORIDA
Sept. 14	NEBRASKA
21	LOUISIANA TECH
28	IOWA
Oct. 5	at Wisconsin
12	at Michigan
19	NORTHWESTERN
26	at Ohio State
Nov. 2	ILLINOIS
9	VIRGINIA
16	at Indiana
23	MICHIGAN STATE

—DAMIAN STROHMEYER

worth•while /*adjective* 2:
being of monetary value
for the time or effort
expended.



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BADGERED Opposing DBs will try to prevent Wisconsin's Evans (3) from putting up more record numbers this season.

RANK	TEAM (FINAL RANK)	2001 RECORD	RETURNING STARTERS	SCHEDULE STRENGTH	THE SKINNY
26	N.C. STATE	7-5	14	74	Senior safety Terrence Holt, brother of NFL wideout Torry Holt, averaged nearly 10 tackles a game
27	UTAH	8-4	15	75	Junior QB Lance Rice is the grandson of donor Bob Rice, whose name adorns Rice-Eccles Stadium
28	MICHIGAN STATE	7-5	16	66	QB Jeff Smoker fired 21 TD passes and just eight INTs last season as a sophomore
29	BOSTON COLLEGE (21)	8-4	18	76	With William Green opting for the NFL, the Eagles' four-year streak of 1,000-yard rushers will end
30	CLEMSON	7-5	16	16	Don't be surprised if junior QB Willie Simmons, successor to Woody Dantzler, throws for 3,000 yards
31	ALABAMA	7-5	12	9	The SEC's best rushing team (226.4 yards per game) has its top four ground gainers back
32	KANSAS STATE	6-6	12	69	Sophomore tackle Tank Reese (5' 11", 280 pounds) was the Big 12's defensive newcomer of the year
33	ARKANSAS	7-5	13	41	The DWI suspension of All-America junior safety Ken Hamlin leaves the secondary hog-tied
34	TEXAS TECH	7-5	19	4	Senior Kliff Kingsbury ranks among the nation's top five returning QBs in completions, yards and TDs
35	OREGON STATE	5-6	17	57	No preseason No. 1 this year, with sophomores replacing QB Jonathan Smith and RB Ken Simonton
36	BYU (25)	12-2	12	80	Junior QB Bret Engemann takes over an offense that had an NCAA-best 543 yards per game
37	WISCONSIN	5-7	13	23	Senior WR Lee Evans smashed David Boston's Big Ten receiving yards record last year, with 1,545
38	UCLA	7-4	13	2	Coach Bob Toledo, who's 17-17 over the past three seasons, is on the hottest of hot seats
39	NOTRE DAME	5-6	14	14	Ty Willingham's first five games: Maryland, Purdue, Michigan, Michigan State, Stanford. Good luck
40	IOWA	7-5	14	55	The Hawkeyes have lost four straight to in-state rival Iowa State; they get another shot on Sept. 14
41	PURDUE	6-6	17	51	Sophomore WR Taylor Stubblefield (73 catches, 910 yards) is questionable after a July 4 skull fracture
42	MISSISSIPPI	7-4	16	32	Eli Manning's second-year stats (2,948 yards, 31 TDs) look awfully close to Peyton's (2,954, 22)
43	STANFORD	9-3	10	13	Junior WR Luke Powell tops the Cardinal record book in yards per reception (22.3)
44	SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI	6-5	18	67	Can Derrick Nix return to the form that saw him rush for more than 1,000 yards in 1998 and '99?
45	PITTSBURGH	7-5	16	58	Following a 1-5 start, the Panthers won six straight, including a Tangerine Bowl victory over N.C. State
46	BOISE STATE	8-4	15	112	Senior S Quintin Mikell had 87 tackles in '01, junior RB David Mikell (no relation) 1,441 total yards
47	IOWA STATE	7-5	15	34	Seneca Wallace, the Big 12's top offensive newcomer in 2001, could be its best signal-caller
48	GEORGIA TECH (24)	8-5	16	25	QB A.J. Suggs, who started four games for Tennessee in 2000, takes over the offense
49	SYRACUSE (14)	10-3	10	40	The Orangemen lost nine starters on offense, though not speedy junior QB R.J. Anderson



ALL THE Rest

Our Rankings from

26 to 17

COMPILED BY RICHARD DEITSCH

RANK	TEAM (FINAL RANK)	2001 RECORD	RETURNING STARTERS	SCHEDULE STRENGTH	THE SKINNY
50	COLORADO STATE	7-5	15	39	With RB Cecil Sapp healthy, Henri Childs (841 rushing yards) will see time at H-back
51	VIRGINIA	5-7	13	10	Groh as in throw: The Cavs tossed a school-record 451 passes in 2001, Al Groh's first season as coach
52	CINCINNATI	7-5	17	73	QB Gino Guidugli (2,573 yards, 16 TDs) was the first freshman to win Bearcats MVP honors
53	FRESNO STATE	11-3	17	77	Junior Jeff Grady, the successor to David Carr, has thrown just 23 career passes
54	MISSISSIPPI STATE	3-8	16	17	Senior LB Mario Haggan has had double-digit tackles in 13 of his 20 regular-season starts
55	LOUISIANA TECH	7-5	18	78	Junior QB Luke McCown has passed for 300 or more yards in 12 of his 19 games as a starter
56	CENTRAL FLORIDA	6-5	11	98	QB Ryan Schneider is ahead of Daunte Culpepper's two-season pace, with 5,257 yards and 38 TDs
57	BOWLING GREEN	8-3	14	116	Junior Josh Harris (1,022 passing yards) and senior Andy Sahm (1,326 yards) will see time at QB
58	WAKE FOREST	6-5	17	45	Defensive Demon: Senior end Calvin Pace has 19 sacks over the past two seasons
59	MEMPHIS	5-6	17	87	QB turned WR Travis Anglin, a 6' 4" senior, caught five passes for 131 yards in the spring game
60	OKLAHOMA STATE	4-7	18	24	Junior WR Rashawn Woods led the Big 12 in receptions (80) and yards (1,023) as a sophomore
61	NEW MEXICO	6-5	15	82	Junior QB Casey Kelly started the final seven games of the season, leading the Lobos to a 5-2 finish
62	MISSOURI	4-7	14	7	All-Big 12 wideout (and Tigers b-ball) Justin Gage caught 74 passes last year as a junior
63	ARIZONA	5-6	17	20	Junior TB Clarence Farmer led the Pac-10 in rushing, with 1,229 yards (5.9 per carry)
64	HAWAII	9-3	15	110	QB Timmy Chang (medical redshirt in 2001) threw for 3,041 yards as a freshman in '00
65	NORTH CAROLINA	8-5	10	8	The Tar Heels are still looking for a force to replace '01 Lombardi winner Julius Peppers
66	MINNESOTA	4-7	16	56	Not-so-Golden Gophers start only one senior on defense, CB Mike Lehan
67	WEST VIRGINIA	3-8	17	28	Senior RB Avon Cobourne aims for a Mountaineers first: four straight 1,000-yard rushing seasons
68	MIDDLE TENNESSEE	8-3	16	114	RB Dwone Hicks set school records for rushing TDs (20) and points (148) in 2001 as a junior
69	NORTHWESTERN	4-7	11	49	Sophomore Tony Stauss has the tough task of replacing record-setting QB Zak Kustok
70	EAST CAROLINA	6-6	14	83	All-Conference USA T Brian Rimpf held his own in games against Julius Peppers and Dwight Freeney
71	NORTHERN ILLINOIS	6-5	18	106	Senior RB Thomas Hammock (1,096 yards in 2001) carries a 3.50 GPA in marketing
72	ARIZONA STATE	4-7	12	26	Neither QB—freshman Chad Christensen or sophomore Andrew Walter—inspires confidence
73	TOLEDO (23)	10-2	12	102	Freshmen Quinton Broussard and Astin Martin vie to replace MAC No. 2 alltime rusher Chester Taylor

TEAM RANKINGS, 26-117



NO COUCH POTATO Lorenzen, entering his third season, has his sights set on Kentucky's career passing marks.

HELENA HAU/TEAM COYLE

RANK	TEAM	2001 RECORD	RETURNING STARTERS	SCHEDULE STRENGTH	THE SKINNY
74	KENTUCKY	2-9	11	12	Junior Jared Lorenzen is the Wildcats' No. 2 career passer (behind Tim Couch), with 5,866 yards
75	TCU	6-6	15	89	Senior LB LaMarcus McDonald had a conference-best 25 tackles for losses, fourth in the nation
76	MIAMI (OHIO)	7-5	15	64	Top 2001 MAC freshman Ben Roethlisberger led all freshman QBs in yards (3,105) and TD passes (25)
77	UNLV	4-7	14	71	Senior QB Jason Thomas is fully recovered from shoulder woes that thwarted his 'Ol Heisman hopes
78	VANDERBILT	2-9	14	22	New coach Bobby Johnson faces his old team, Furman, in Vandy's second game, on Sept. 7
79	UAB	6-5	12	68	S Chris Brown and CB Dio Hill are the only starters back from the nation's top rushing D (573 yards)
80	KANSAS	3-8	12	46	From OU to KU: Former Sooners offensive coordinator Mark Mangino is the new head man in Lawrence
81	INDIANA	5-6	15	29	New coach Gerry DiNardo's last gig was with the XFL's Birmingham Thunderbolts
82	BALL STATE	5-6	17	101	Senior Marcus Merriweather is only the second Ball State RB with back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons
83	SMU	4-7	16	107	New coach Phil Bennett was Kansas State's defensive coordinator for the past three years
84	SOUTH FLORIDA	8-3	18	88	Senior QB Marquel Blackwell has the name and the game for a dark-horse Heisman run
85	CALIFORNIA	1-10	18	33	Coach Jeff Tedford, formerly the offensive coordinator for rival Oregon, has a massive rebuilding job
86	AIR FORCE	6-6	10	84	Senior RB Leotis Palmer (516 yards) is one of three returning starters on offense for the Falcons
87	SAN DIEGO STATE	3-8	13	44	New coach Tom Craft is the first former Aztec player to head the team since Bob Breitbard in 1945
88	BAYLOR	3-8	15	37	The Bears have lost 29 straight Big 12 games; best shot this year is against Kansas at home on Oct. 5
89	WESTERN MICHIGAN	5-6	11	81	Senior LB Bryan Lape led the MAC with six forced fumbles in 2001
90	TROY STATE	7-4	16	104	The road to perdition? Away games: Nebraska, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa State and Mississippi State
91	KENT STATE	6-5	14	105	QB Joshua Cribbs became the first I-A freshman to rush and pass for more than 1,000 yards
92	TULANE	3-9	18	92	Junior RB Mewelde Moore surpassed 1,250 rushing yards and 60 catches in 2001, a I-A first
93	RUTGERS	2-9	17	60	The Scarlet Knights scored just 36 points in Big East play, five fewer than Miami's per-game average
94	AKRON	4-7	10	85	If senior Brandon Payne's knee is 100%, he'll be one of the best backs in the MAC
95	TEMPLE	4-7	17	42	Senior lineman Dan Klecko (6½ sacks in 2001) follows in the footsteps of his dad, former NFLer Joe
96	NORTH TEXAS	5-7	20	108	All-conference safeties Craig Jones and Jonas Buckles combined for 128 tackles and seven INTs

WILL YOUR ALMA MATER MAKE THE CUT?

GRAND TEAM

1. Michigan
2. Ohio State
3. Florida
4. Tennessee
5. Texas

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MET-Rx COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

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WE HAVE A PROBLEM Houston is coming off a winless season, and Brian Robinson and the Cougars will again find the going tough.

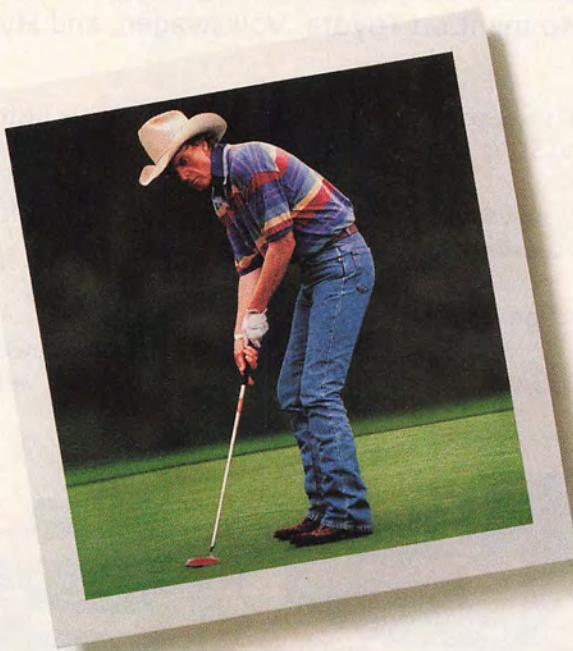


JOE ROBBINS

RANK	TEAM	2001 RECORD	RETURNING STARTERS	SCHEDULE STRENGTH	THE SKINNY
97	NEW MEXICO STATE	5-7	9	103	Senior Robert Canidate, younger brother of St. Louis Rams RB Trung Canidate, starts at left corner
98	WYOMING	2-9	16	54	Junior QB Casey Bramlet must improve on last season's numbers: nine TD passes, 20 INTs
99	ARMY	3-8	10	99	Senior end Clarence Holmes is Army's sack leader for a career (nine) and a season (seven in 2001)
100	NEVADA	3-8	17	72	RB Chance Kretschmer (1,732 yards) became just the second freshman to lead the nation in rushing
101	UTEP	2-9	16	97	Sophomore LB Robert Rodriguez (a WAC-best 137 tackles) is one of 10 returning defensive starters
102	RICE	8-4	8	93	The top five rushers (but only one O-line starter) are back for last year's No. 2-ranked ground attack
103	CENTRAL MICHIGAN	3-8	18	94	Sophomore safety James King blocked seven punts and one extra point in 2001
104	LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	3-8	16	96	Junior WR Fred Stamps is a first-class deep threat, with 43 catches for 663 yards last year
105	EASTERN MICHIGAN	2-9	10	109	Five candidates battle to replace QB Kainoa Akina, who transferred to Hawaii
106	HOUSTON	0-11	13	79	Mismatch of the year: the Cougars in Austin against the Longhorns on Sept. 21
107	SAN JOSE STATE	3-9	7	50	CB Melvin Cook is the only starter back from the nation's No. 115-ranked D (500.8 yards per game)
108	DUKE	0-11	12	18	College football's longest active losing streak (23 straight entering '02) could end on Sept. 28 at Navy
109	BUFFALO	3-8	12	111	The Bulls have never been favored in a I-A game; that should change Sept. 14 when they host UConn
110	OHIO	1-10	9	90	Senior CB David (Bop) White is the MAC's active leader in interceptions, with 11
111	TULSA	1-10	15	86	The Golden Hurricane hosts No. 1 Oklahoma in the season opener; last year the Sooners scored 58
112	LOUISIANA-MONROE	2-9	18	115	Sonnier days ahead? Junior LB Maurice Sonnier (79 tackles, 5 sacks) is a Butkus Award candidate
113	UTAH STATE	4-7	15	63	Former walk-on Kevin Curtis, a senior wideout, led the nation last year with 9.1 receptions per game
114	NAVY	0-10	12	95	Hosting UConn on Nov. 16 assures the Midshipmen that they won't have another winless season
115	CONNECTICUT	2-9	18	100	After traveling to Miami on Oct. 5, the Huskies may want to reconsider joining the Big East in 2005
116	ARKANSAS STATE	2-9	16	117	Average age of the coaching staff is 35 years, four months, tied with Tulane for the nation's youngest
117	IDAHO	1-10	10	91	The Vandals travel to Louisiana-Monroe on Sept. 21 for college football's Mr. Irrelevant game

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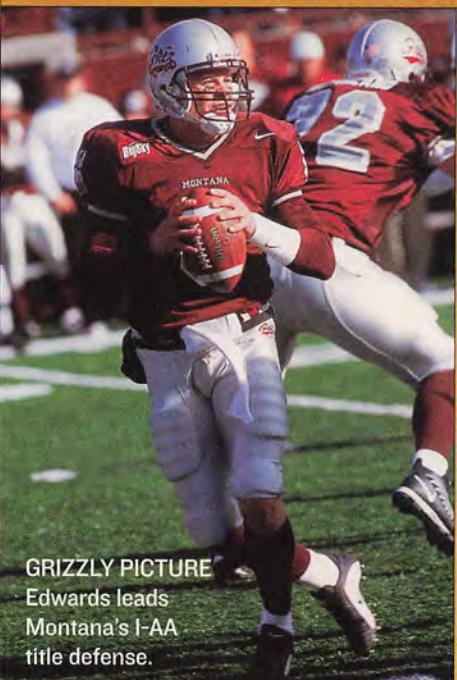


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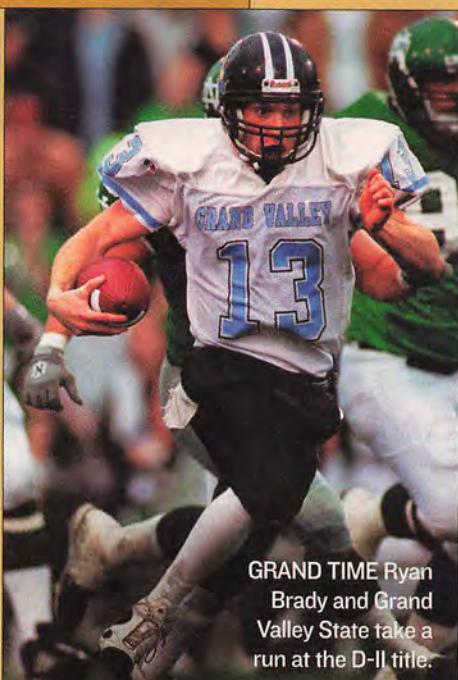


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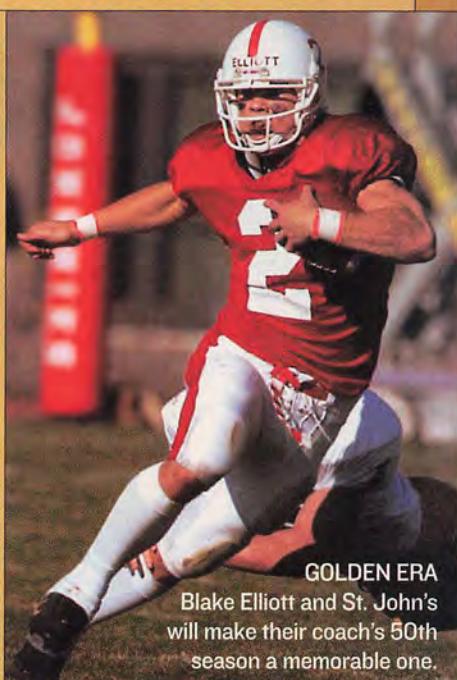
GRIZZLY PICTURE

Edwards leads Montana's I-AA title defense.



GRAND TIME

Ryan Brady and Grand Valley State take a run at the D-II title.



GOLDEN ERA

Blake Elliott and St. John's will make their coach's 50th season a memorable one.

RANK	TEAM	2001 RECORD	2001 RANK	THE SKINNY	COMPILED BY LARS ANDERSON
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DIVISION I-AA

1	MONTANA	15-1	1	The defending champs bring back 16 starters, including unflappable senior QB John Edwards (13 TDs passing, five rushing)
2	NORTHERN IOWA	11-3	4	With four senior O line starters, running backs Adam Benge (1,383 yards) and Richard Carter (957 yards) should see lots of daylight
3	EASTERN ILLINOIS	9-2	9	Senior QB Tony Romo, who threw for 2,068 yards, led I-AA with a 178.3 QB rating last season
4	LEHIGH	11-1	5	The Mountain Hawks have won 23 consecutive regular-season games, longest streak in Division I or I-AA
5	FURMAN	12-3	2	Fifth-year quarterback Billy Napier must shake off his disappointing showing in the title-game loss to Montana
6	GEORGIA SOUTHERN	12-2	3	All-America tackle Freddy Pesqueira, who had 15.5 tackles for loss last season, leads a defense that has seven starters back
7	HOFSTRA	9-3	7	Junior RB Trevor Dimmie, who's 237 yards short of the school's alltime mark, and the Pride await Montana's Aug. 29 visit
8	APPALACHIAN STATE	9-4	6	Strong-armed senior QB Joe Burchette needs 2,073 more yards to become the school's alltime passing leader
9	WILLIAM & MARY	8-4	17	Wideout Rich Musinski, one of 19 returning starters, had a school-record 1,393 receiving yards last season
10	SAM HOUSTON STATE	10-3	8	Two 300-pounders, tackle Chase Denton and guard Billy Williams, will pave the way for junior RB Willie Thomas

DIVISION II

1	GRAND VALLEY STATE (MICH.)	13-1	2	Senior QB Curt Aanes, who threw 49 TDs and only three INTs, leads an offense that has nine starters back
2	CATAWBA (N.C.)	11-2	3	Senior LB Todd McComb (105 tackles) is one of seven returning starters from a D that gave up only 14.8 points per game
3	PITTSBURG STATE (KANS.)	11-2	11	QB Neal Philpot (6' 4", 245) was D-II's Eric Crouch, leading the Gorillas in passing (1,219 yards) and rushing (1,044)
4	UC DAVIS	10-3	5	The Aggies will contend again behind the play of receiver Michael Oliva (74 catches, 1,365 yards, 13 TDs)
5	VALDOSTA STATE (GA.)	12-1	4	Sophomore QB Buster Faulkner (38 of 52 for 307 yards as reserve in '01) replaces two-time Division II player of the year Dusty Bonner
6	NORTH DAKOTA	14-1	1	The defending national champs bring back just three starters on offense, but one is quarterback Kelby Klosterman (34 TDs)
7	TEXAS A&M-KINGSVILLE	9-2	13	QB Abel Gonzalez, a 5' 10" senior, averaged 211.3 yards passing and 60.3 yards rushing per game last season
8	NEBRASKA-OMAHA	8-3	16	Senior DE Buck Rasmussen, an NFL prospect, returns after missing most of 2001 with a knee injury
9	C.W. POST (N.Y.)	11-1	19	Senior Ian Smart (2,536 rushing yards in 2001; 4,624 career) could break R.J. Bowers's all-division rushing mark of 7,353 yards
10	CHADRON STATE (NEB.)	10-1	7	Junior TB Austin Forster, who led the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference in total yards in 2000, with 1,721, returns from a broken collarbone

DIVISION III

1	ST. JOHN'S (MINN.)	11-3	5	In his 50th year with the Johnnies, coach John Gagliardi looks for another big year from linebacker Cameron McCambridge (137 tackles)
2	MOUNT UNION (OHIO)	14-0	1	The defending champs, winners of 82 of last 83, have seven starters back from a defense that gave up just 11.1 points per game
3	AUGUSTANA (ILL.)	10-2	14	Senior offensive tackle J.D. Sheldon helped the Vikings set school marks for rushing yards (4,445) and total offense (5,284) in '01
4	WIDENER (PA.)	12-1	4	If senior QB Mike Warker can duplicate his '01 performance (41 TDs), the Pioneers have a shot at their third national title
5	ROWAN (N.J.)	11-2	3	Strong-armed senior Tony Racopoli threw 47 touchdown passes last year, including seven against Montclair State
6	BRIDGEWATER (VA.)	12-1	2	The Eagles, 0-10 in 1998, had Mount Union on ropes in last year's national championship game before falling 30-27
7	TRINITY (TEXAS)	9-2	8	Quarterback Roy Hampton, one of eight returning starters on offense, was second in D-III in passing efficiency (187.2)
8	WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON (PA.)	11-1	7	Senior quarterback Brian Dawson holds 18 school records, including most career passing yards (8,700)
9	WISCONSIN-STEVENS POINT	8-3	13	Led by 6' 9", 333-pound tackle Luke Hilgeman, the Pointers boast one of the biggest offensive lines in D-III
10	LYCOMING (PA.)	8-1	17	The Warriors are still irked that they didn't get a playoff invitation after losing just one game last season

COLLEGE FOOTBALL 2002



VARSITY
FOOTBALL

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

THE Best Years OF HIS LIFE

**Nothing would ever
match his days
playing college
football. So why did
the author hide
from the team, and
the teammates,
who meant
everything to him?**

BY JOHN ED BRADLEY



T ENDS for everybody. It ends for the pro who makes \$5 million a year and has his face on magazine covers and his name in the record books. It ends for the kid on the high school team who never comes off the bench except to congratulate his teammates as they file past him on their way to the Gatorade bucket.

In my case it ended on Dec. 22, 1979, at the Tangerine Bowl in Orlando. We beat Wake Forest that night 34–10, in a game I barely remember but for the fact that it was my last one. When it was over, a teammate and I grabbed our heroic old coach, hoisted him on our shoulders and carried him out to the midfield crest. It was ending that day for Charles McClendon, too, after 18 years as head coach at LSU and a superb 69% career winning percentage. The next day newspapers would run photos of Coach Mac's last victory ride, with Big Eddie Stanton and me, smeared with mud, serving as his chariot. Coach had a hand raised

above his head as he waved goodbye, but it would strike me that his expression showed little joy at all. He looked tired and sad. More than anything, though, he looked like he didn't want it to end.

We were quiet on the flight back to Baton Rouge, and when the plane touched down at Ryan Field, no cheers went up and nobody said anything. A week or so later, done with the Christmas holidays, I went to Tiger Stadium to clean out my locker. I brought a big travel bag with me, and I stuffed it with pads, shoes, gym trunks, jockstraps, T-shirts and practice jerseys. I removed my nametag from the locker. Then I studied the purple stenciling against the gold matte. In one corner someone had scribbled the words TRAMPLE THE DEAD, HURDLE THE WEAK. The source of the legend eludes me now, but it had been a rallying cry for the team that year, especially for my mates on the offensive line.

The last thing I packed was my helmet. I'd been an offensive center, and the helmet's back and sides were covered with the little Tigers decals the coaches had given out as merit badges for big plays. I ran my fingertips over the surface, feeling the scars in the hard plastic crown. There were paint smudges and streaks from helmets I'd butted over the years. Was the gold Vanderbilt or Florida State? The red Alabama or Georgia, Indiana or USC?

When I finished packing, I walked down the chute that led to the playing field, pushed open the big metal door and squinted against the sudden blast of sunlight. I meant to have one last look at the old stadium where I'd played the last four years. Death Valley was quiet now under a blue winter sky. I could point to virtually any spot on the field and tell you about some incident that had happened there. I knew where teammates had blown out knees, dropped passes, made key blocks and tackles, thrown interceptions and recovered game-saving fumbles. I knew where we'd vomited in spring scrimmages under a brutal Louisiana sun and where we'd celebrated on autumn Saturday nights to the roar of maniacal Tigers fans and the roar of a real tiger, Mike IV, prowling in a cage on the sideline. We'd performed to a full house at most every home game, the crowds routinely in excess of 75,000, but today there was no one in sight, the bleachers running in silver ribbons around the gray cement bowl. It seemed the loneliest place on earth.

I was only 21 years old, yet I believed that nothing I did for the rest of my life would rise up to those days when I wore the Purple and Gold. I might go on to a satisfying career and make a lot of money, I might marry a beautiful woman and fill a house with

perfect kids, I might make a mark that would be of some significance in other people's eyes. But I would never have it better than when I was playing football for LSU.

Despite this belief, I was determined to walk away from that place and that life and never look back. You wouldn't catch me 20 years later crowing about how it had been back in the day, when as a college kid I'd heard the cheers. I knew the type who couldn't give it up, and I didn't want to be him. He keeps going to the games and reminding anyone who'll listen of how things used

to be. His wife and kids roll their eyes as he describes big plays, quotes from halftime speeches and embellishes a "career" that no one else seems to remember with any specificity. He stalks the memory until the memory reduces him to pathetic self-parody. To listen to him, he never screwed up a snap count or busted an assignment or had a coach berate him for dogging it or getting beat. In his mind he is forever young, forever strong, forever golden.

Standing there in Tiger Stadium, I squeezed my eyes closed and lowered my head. Then I wept.

Hell no, I said to myself. That wasn't going to be me.

I STILL remember their names and hometowns. And I can tell you, almost to a man, the high schools they went to. I remember how tall they were and how much they weighed. I remember their strengths and weaknesses, both as men and as football players. I remember the kinds of cars they drove, what religions they practiced, the music they favored, the hair color of their girlfriends, how many letters they earned, their injuries, their dreams, their times in the 40-yard dash. In many instances I remember their jersey numbers. On the day last August that I turned 43, I wondered

what had happened to Robert DeLee. DeLee, a tight end from the small town of Clinton, La., wore number 43 on his jersey when I was a senior. During my freshman year a running back named Jack Clark had worn the number. Jack Clark, too, I thought to myself—where on earth has he slipped off to? I had seen neither of them in more than two decades.

That was the case with almost all of my teammates. Last summer I attended a wedding reception for Barry Rubin, a former fullback at LSU who is a strength coach with the Green Bay Packers. It had been about eight years since I'd last had a face-to-face conversation with a teammate, and even that meeting had come purely by chance. One day I was waiting in the checkout line at a store in suburban New Orleans when someone standing behind

You wouldn't catch me 20 years later crowing about how it had been back in the day, when as a college kid I'd heard the cheers.



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me called out my name. I wheeled around, and there stood Charlie McDuff, an ex-offensive tackle who'd arrived at LSU at the same time I did, as a member of the celebrated 1976 freshman class. A couple of shoppers separated Charlie and me, and I couldn't reach past them to shake his hand. "How are things going?" he said.

"Things are good," I said. "How 'bout with you?"

I felt uncomfortable seeing him again, even though we'd always gotten along well back in school. The media guide had listed him at 6' 6" and 263 pounds, but in actual fact he was a shade taller and closer to 275. Even after all these years away from the game he had a bull neck and arms thick with muscle. His hair was as sun-bleached as ever, his skin as darkly tanned.

I paid what I owed and started to leave. Then I turned back around and looked at him again. "You ever see anybody anymore, Charlie?" I said.

"Yeah. Sure, I see them. Some of them. You?"

"Not really."

He nodded as if he understood, and we parted without saying anything more, and two years later Charlie McDuff was dead. My sister called, crying with the news. Charlie had suffered a pulmonary embolism while vacationing with his family at a Gulf Coast resort. He left behind a wife and three young sons. I wanted to call someone and talk about him, and I knew it had to be a player, one of our teammates, and preferably an offensive lineman. But I couldn't do it, I couldn't make the call. Nobody wanted to remember anymore, I tried to convince myself. It was too long ago. So instead I pulled some cardboard boxes out of a closet and went through them. There were trophies and plaques wrapped in paper, letters tied with kite string, a short stack of souvenir programs and a couple of plastic-bound photo albums crowded with news clippings and yellowing images of boys who actually were capable of dying. If Charlie McDuff could die, it occurred to me, we all could.

At the bottom of the box I found a worn, gray T-shirt with purple lettering that said NOBODY WORKS HARDER THAN THE OFFENSIVE LINE. Charlie had had that shirt made, along with about a dozen others, and handed them out to the linemen on the '79 squad. The year before, we'd lost some outstanding players to graduation, and Charlie had hoped the shirts would inspire us to pull together as a unit. We wore the shirts at every opportunity, generally under our shoulder pads at practice and games. It seems crazy now, but there was a time when I considered stipulating in my will that I be buried

in that ratty thing. I was never more proud than when I had it on.

I learned about Charlie's funeral arrangements, and I got dressed intending to go. I started down the road for Baton Rouge, rehearsing the lines I'd speak to his widow and children, and those I'd tell my old teammates to explain why I didn't come around anymore. I drove as far as the outskirts of Baton Rouge before turning around and heading back home.

ARE THERE others out there like me? I've often wondered. Does the loss of a game they played in their youth haunt them as it's haunted me? Do others wake up from afternoon naps and bolt for the door, certain that they're late for practice even though their last practice was half a lifetime ago? My nightmares don't contain images of monsters or plane crashes or Boo Radley hiding behind the bedroom door. Mine have me jumping offside or muffing the center-quarterback exchange. They have me forgetting where I placed my helmet when the defense is coming off the field and it's time for me to go back in the game.

If it really ends, I wonder, then why doesn't it just end?

I suppose I was doomed from the start, having been sired by a Louisiana high school football coach. The year of my birth, 1958, was the same year LSU won its one and only national championship in football, and the month of my birth, August, was when two-a-day practices began for that season. Although my parents couldn't afford to take their five kids to the LSU games, we always listened to the radio broadcasts, usually while my father was outside barbecuing on the patio. He'd sit there in a lawn chair, lost in concentration, a purple-and-gold cap tipped back on his head. Not far away on the lawn I acted out big plays with

friends from the neighborhood, some of us dressed in little Tigers uniforms. We played in the dark until someone ran into a tree or a clothesline and got hurt, then my dad would have me sit next to him and listen to the rest of the game, the real one. "Settle down now," I remember him saying. "LSU's on."

When I was a kid I always gave the same answer to adults who asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. "I want to play football for LSU," I answered. Beyond that I had no clear picture of myself.

Nor could I fathom a future without the game when it ended for me 23 years ago. One day I was on the team, the next I was a guy with a pile of memories and a feeling in his gut that his best days were behind him. I shuffled around in my purple letter jacket won-

His eyes were large and haunted from the battle, but it was Coach Mac, all right. I snapped to attention when he spoke my name.



LAST LIFT In the final game for both, Bradley (right) helped hoist McClendon after LSU's bowl victory.

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dering what to do with myself, and wondering who I was. Suddenly there were no afternoon workouts or meetings to attend. I didn't have to visit the training room for whirlpool or hot-wax baths or ultrasound treatments or massages or complicated ankle tappings or shots to kill the never-ending pain. If I wanted to, I could sit in a Tigerland bar and get drunk without fear of being booted from the team; I didn't have a team anymore. Every day for four years I'd stepped on a scale and recorded my weight on a chart for the coaches. But no one cared any longer how thin I got, or how fat.

That last year I served as captain of the offense, and either by some miracle or by a rigged ballot I was named to the second team All-Southeastern Conference squad. The first-team player, Alabama's Dwight Stephenson, went on to become a star with the Miami Dolphins and a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and I'd seen enough film of the guy to know I was nowhere in his league. At the end of April, in the hours after the 1980 NFL draft, a scout for the Dallas Cowboys called and asked me to consider signing with the club as a free agent, but by then I'd already shed 30 pounds along with any notion of myself as an athlete. I gave some excuse and hung up. "You don't even want to try?" my father said.

I could've yelled at him for asking, but there was genuine compassion in his eyes. He and my mother were losing something, too. One of their sons had played football for LSU, and where I come from nothing topped that. "It's over," I said.

My father nodded and walked away.

NUMBER 50 was Jay Whitley, the pride of Baton Rouge's Lee High. Fifty-one was Lou deLauney, then Albert Richardson; 52, Kevin Lair, then Leigh Shepard; 53, Steve Estes and Jim Holsombake; 54, Rocky Guillot. Fifty-five was linebacker S.J. Saia; then after my freshman year the number went to Marty Dufrene, probably the toughest offensive lineman ever to come out of Lafourche Parish. My number was 56. When we left the stadium after games, fans were waiting outside under the streetlamps, some of them with programs and slips of paper to sign. Even a lowly offensive lineman was asked for an autograph. "Number 56 in your program, Number 1 in your heart," I'd write, disgracing myself for all eternity but way too ignorant at the time to know it.

I don't recall how I first learned about what happened to Marty. Maybe it was from a news story about efforts to raise money to help pay his medical bills. Or maybe it was another tearful call from a relative. But one day I found myself punching numbers on a tele-

phone keypad, desperate to talk to him again. Marty was living in LaRose, his hometown in the heart of Cajun country, or "down the bayou," as the natives like to say. His wife, Lynne, answered. "Lynne, do you remember me?" I said, after introducing myself.

"Yes, I remember you," she answered. "You want to talk to Marty? Hold on, John Ed. It's going to take a few minutes, because I have to put him on the speakerphone."

A speakerphone? When he finally came on he sounded as though he was trapped at the bottom of a well.

"Marty, is it true you got hurt?" I said.

"Yeah," he said.

"You're paralyzed, man?"

"Yeah," he said, raising his voice to make sure I could hear. "I broke my neck. Can you believe it?"

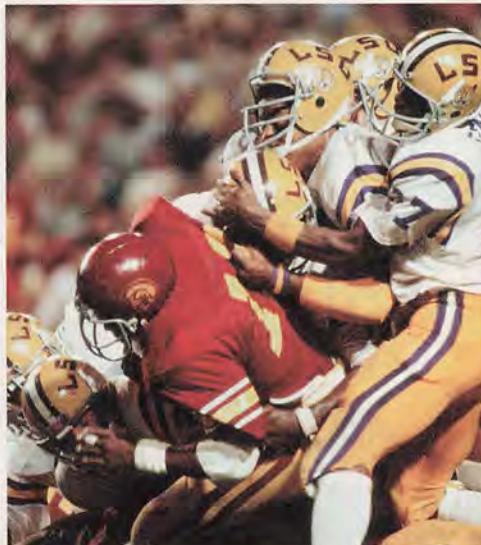
It had happened in July 1986, some five years before my call. While in his second year of studies at a chiropractic college then based in Irving, Texas, Marty was injured in a freak accident at a pool party to welcome the incoming freshman class. He and friends were horsing around when a pair of them decided to bring big, strong Marty down. One held him in a headlock, the other took a running start and plowed into him. Marty smashed through the water's surface of a shallow children's pool and struck his head on the bottom, shattering a vertebra. He floated in the water, unable to move or feel anything from his neck down, until his friends pulled him out.

As he told me about the accident I kept flashing back to the kid I'd known in school. Marty had been a lean, powerfully built 6' 2" and 235 pounds, small by today's standards but about average for a center in our era. On the field he'd played with a kind of swagger, as if certain that he could dominate his opponent. The swagger extended to his life off the

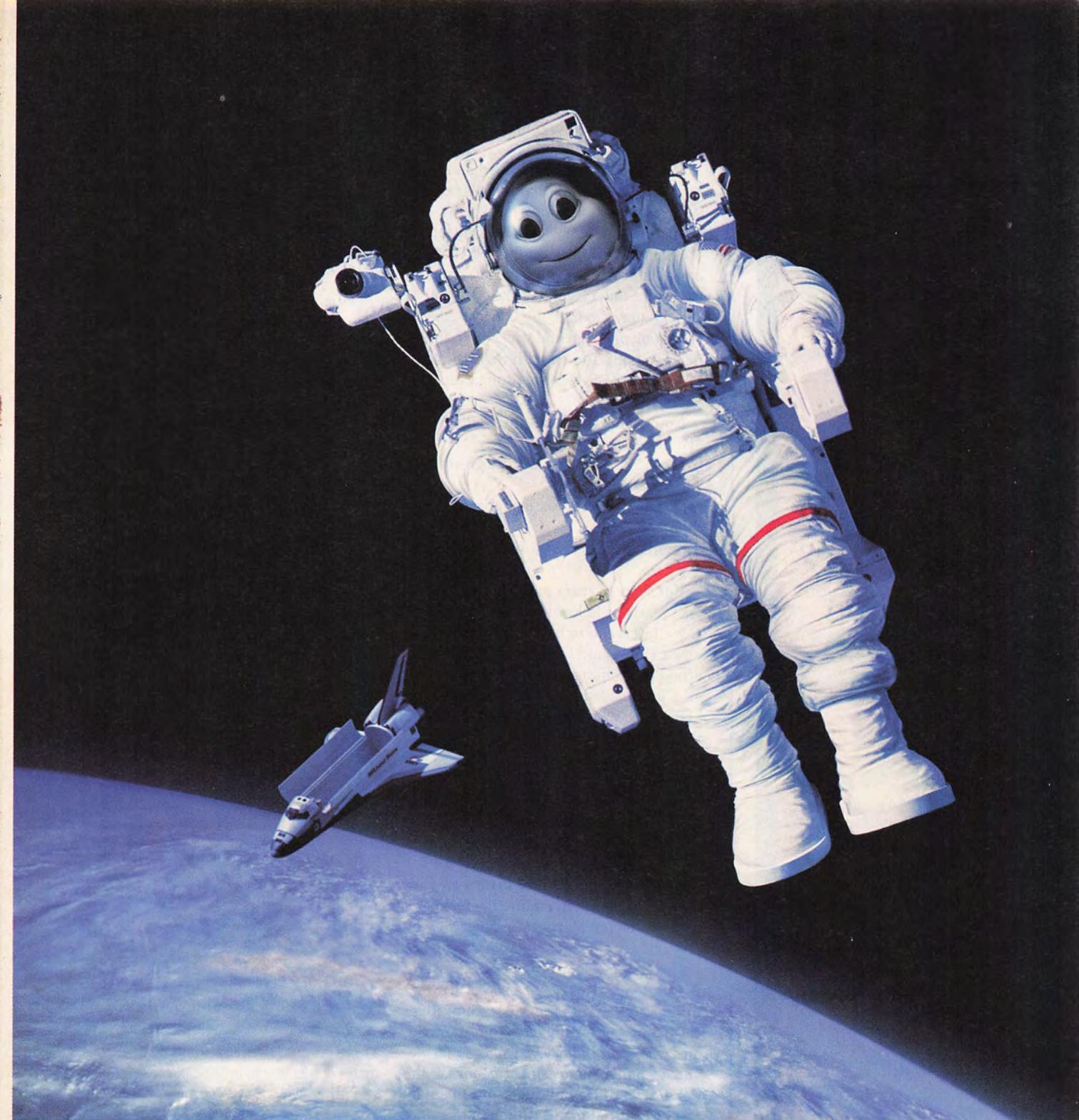
field. Marty liked to have a good time. He spoke with a heavy Cajun accent, the kind of accent that made girls crazy and immediately identified him as a pure Louisiana thoroughbred. Football schools from the Midwest featured humongous linemen brought up on corn and prime beef. At LSU we had guys like Marty, raised on crawfish from the mud flats and seafood from the Gulf of Mexico.

The son of an offshore oil field worker, Marty was an all-state high school center in 1976. He was a highly recruited blue-chipper coming out of South Lafourche High, just as I had been at Opelousas High the year before. Marty had vacillated between committing to West Point and to LSU before he realized there really was only one choice for him. Air Force was the military

"I remember it all the time," I said. "I don't always want to remember it, because we lost, Coach, but I remember it."



NEAR MISS The Tigers held USC's White to one score but were undone by a late face-mask call.



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academy that had tried to lure me before I snapped out of it and understood what my destiny was.

The only problem I'd ever had with Marty Dufrene was that we played the same position, and he wanted my job. Going into my senior year I was listed on the first team, Marty on the second. One day after practice he told me he was going to beat me out. I couldn't believe his gall. "I want to play pro ball," he said.

I shook my head and walked off, thinking, Pro ball? To hell with that, Dufrene. I'm going to see to it you don't even play in college.

Now, on the telephone, I was telling him, "I'd like to come see you, Marty."

"Yeah," he said. "It would be great to see you again."

"I'll do it. I promise. Just give me some time."

"Sure, whatever you need. I'd like to catch up."

But then 11 years passed, and I didn't visit Marty or follow up with another call. Nor did I write to him to explain my silence. How could I tell the man that I was afraid to see him again? Afraid to see him as a quadriplegic, afraid to have to acknowledge that, but for the grace of God, I could be the one confined to a chair, afraid to face the reality that what we once were was now ancient history.

I might've played football, in another life. But in my present one I had no doubt as to the depths of my cowardice.

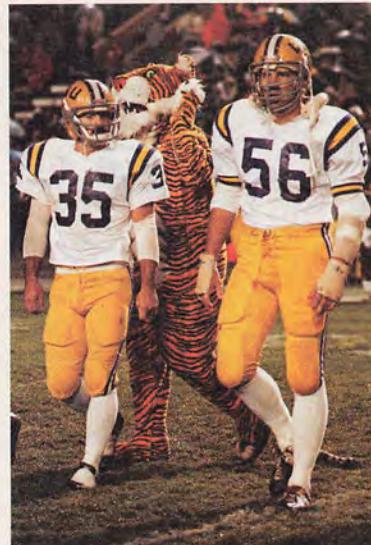
AT SOME point I decided to turn my back on it all, rather than endure the feeling of loss any longer. Marty Dufrene wasn't the only one I avoided. There were years when I tried to stay clear of the entire town of Baton Rouge. Travelers can see Tiger Stadium as they cross the Mississippi River Bridge and enter the city from the west, and whenever I journeyed across that elevated span I made sure to look at the downtown office buildings and the State Capitol to the north, rather than to the south where the old bowl sits nestled in the trees. I struggled to watch LSU games on TV and generally abandoned the set after less than a quarter. Same for radio broadcasts: I tuned most of them out by halftime. On two occasions the school's athletic department invited me to attend home games as an honorary captain, and while I showed both times, I was such a

nervous wreck at being in the stadium again that I could barely walk out on the field before kickoff to receive my award and raise an arm in salute to the crowd.

Love ends, too, and when the girl invites you over to meet her new beau, you don't have to like it, do you?

I received invitations to participate in charity golf tournaments featuring former

**"Number 56 in
your program,
Number 1 in your
heart," I'd write,
disgracing myself
for all eternity.**



TOP TIGER Braden believed nothing in life would equal his captaincy at LSU.

Tigers players; I never went to them. Teammates invited me to tailgate parties, suppers and other events; I never made it to them. The lettermen's club invited me to maintain a membership; except for one year, I always failed to pay my dues. Even Coach Mac tried to get in touch with me a few times. I was somehow too busy to call him back.

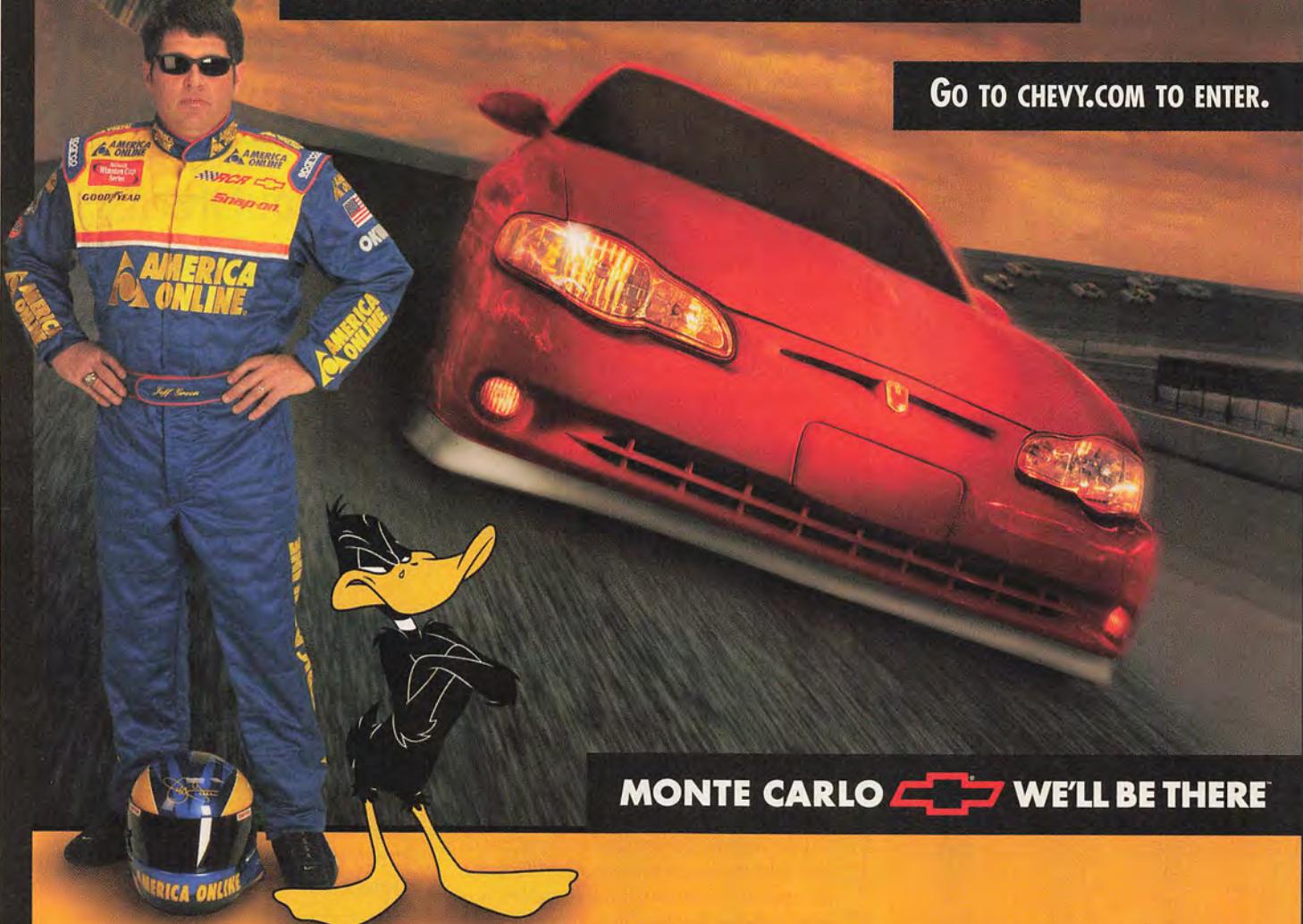
It wasn't until December of last year that I finally saw him again, and by then he was dying. In fact, in only three days he would be dead. Cancer had left him bedridden at his home in Baton Rouge, but even at the

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2. TO ENTER: The object of this sweepstakes is to nominate an individual (an athlete, a coach, a fan, any overall sports enthusiast) who you feel has made an extraordinary contribution to Sports or exemplifies the essence of sportsmanship to be a member of the Russell Athletic Centennial Hall of Fame™. Each time you nominate someone, you earn an entry into the Centennial Sports Sweepstakes.

To enter, visit www.russellathletic.com between 8/1/02 and 12/31/02, click on the Centennial Hall of Fame nomination and sweepstakes link and provide your complete name, complete address, telephone number, date of birth, email address, and the nominee's name, complete address, telephone number and if nominee is a minor, name of his/her parent or legal guardian. Then, in 200 words or less, tell us why your nominee exemplifies the essence of sportsmanship and should be in the Russell Athletic Centennial Hall of Fame™. Entries must be received by 11:59 pm EST 12/31/02. You may enter as often as you wish, but each nomination and supporting statement must be different.

By submitting an entry, you warrant and represent that your supporting statement is your own original work, reflects your honest opinion and belief and does not contain any statement or fact which to the best of your knowledge is not true. Entries become the sole property of Sponsor and will not be returned. Sponsor reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any entry at any time in the event it is determined that the entrant has not complied with these Official Rules.

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worst of it he was receiving guests, most of them former players who came by to tell him goodbye. One day I received a call from an old college friend, urging me to see Coach Mac again. She said it didn't look good; if I wanted to talk to him and make my peace, I'd better come right away.

So that was how I ended up at his doorstep one breezy weekday morning last winter, my hand shaking as I lifted a finger to punch the bell. I wondered if anyone in the house had seen me park on the drive in front, and I seriously considered walking back to my truck and leaving. But then the door swung open and there standing a few feet away was Coach Mac's wife, Dorothy Faye. I could feel my heart squeeze tight in my chest and my breath go shallow. My friend had called ahead and told her I might be coming; otherwise she surely would've been alarmed by the sight of a weeping middle-aged man at her front door. "Why, John Ed Bradley," she said. "Come in. Come in, John Ed."

She put her arms around me and kissed the side of my face. Dorothy Faye was as beautiful as ever, and as kind and gracious, not once asking why it had taken her husband's impending death to get me to come see him again. She led me down a hall to a bedroom, and I could see him before I walked in the door. He was lying supine on a hospital bed. His head was bald, the hair lost to past regimens of chemotherapy, and, at age 78, wrapped up in bedsheets, he seemed so much smaller than I remembered him. His eyes were large and haunted from the battle, but it was Coach Mac, all right. I snapped to attention when he spoke my name. "Come over here and talk to me, buddy," he said.

I sat next to the bed and we held hands and told stories, every one about football. He was still the aw-shucks country boy who'd played for Bear Bryant at Kentucky before going on to build his own legend in Louisiana, and the sound of his rich drawl made the past suddenly come alive for me. I named former teammates and asked him what had become of them, and in every case he had an answer. "Your old position coach was here yesterday," he said.

"Coach McCarty?"

"He sat right there." And we both looked at the place, an empty chair.

"And you're a writer now," he said.

"Yes sir, I'm a writer."

"I'm proud of you, John Ed."

I didn't stay long, maybe 20 minutes, and shortly before I got up to leave he asked me if I ever remembered back to 1979 and the night that the top-ranked USC Trojans came to Baton Rouge and the fans stood on their feet for four quarters and watched one of the most exciting games ever played in Tiger Stadium. "I remember it all the time," I said. "I don't al-

"Whenever life is more than I can bear," Marty said, "I put the Tiger fight song on the stereo."



READY RESERVE Rugged and feisty, Dufrene pushed Bradley to the limit.

ways want to remember it, because we lost, Coach, but I remember it."

"I remember it too," he said in a wistful sort of way.

The Trojans that year had one of the most talented teams in college football history, with standouts Ronnie Lott, Charles White, Marcus Allen, Brad Budde and Anthony Munoz. They would go on to an 11-0-1 season and finish ranked second nationally behind Alabama, and White would win the Heisman Trophy.

In his bed Coach Mac lifted a hand and

ran it over the front of his face in a raking gesture. "They called face-masking against Benji," he whispered.

"Sir?"

"That penalty. The one at the end."

"Yes, sir. They sure did call it. And it cost us the game."

He swallowed, and it seemed I could see that night being replayed in his eyes: the yellow flag going up, the 15 yards being marched off, the subsequent touchdown with less than a minute to play that gave USC the 17-12 win. "Benji Thibodeaux didn't face-mask anybody," I said, the heat rising in my face as I started to argue against a referee's call that nothing would ever change.

Coach Mac was quiet now, and he eased his grip on my hand. I stood and started for the door, determined not to look back. His voice stopped me. "Hey, buddy?" he said. I managed to face him again. "Always remember I'm with you. I'm with all you boys." He lifted a hand off the bed and held it up high, just as he had so many years ago after his last game.

"I know you are, Coach."

"And buddy?" A smile came to his face.

He pointed at me. "Next time don't wait so long before you come see your old coach again."

NOW IT is summer, the season before the season, and Major Marty Dufrene, Civil Department Head of the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Department, motors his wheelchair to the end of a cement drive and nods in the direction of a horse barn at the rear of his 38-acre estate. Five horses stand along a fence and wait for him, just as they do every day when he rolls out to see them after work. "I'm going to be riding before the end of the year," he tells me. "I've got a saddle I'm making with the back beefed up for support, so I can strap myself in. Of course I'm going to have to use a lift to put me in the saddle. But I'm going to do it."

By now I have been with him for a couple of hours, and already the force of his personality has made the chair invisible. After the injury his muscles began to atrophy, and over time his midsection grew large and outsized, his face swollen. But the fire in his eyes hasn't changed. Marty is exactly as I remembered him. "One thing about him," says his wife, "Marty might've

broken his neck, he might be paralyzed and in that chair, but he is still a football player."

Their large Acadian-style house stands only a stone's throw from Bayou Lafourche, the place where they met and fell in love as teenagers. Lynne and their 17-year-old daughter, Amy, are inside preparing dinner, and outside Marty is giving me a tour of the spread when we come to rest in the shade of a carport. I reach to touch the top of his shoulder, because he still has some feeling there, but then I stop myself. "Marty, you must've resented the hell out of me," I say.

He looks up, surprise registering on his face. He bucks forward and then back in his chair, and it isn't necessary for me to explain which of my failures might've led me to make such a statement. "No, never," he says. "I saw you as my competition, but I always have a lot of respect for my competition, and I did for you, too. You were standing in my way, standing in the way of where I wanted to be. But even then I knew my role and accepted it. I was going to push you as hard as I could. That was my duty to you and to the team. I looked up to you as a teacher, just as you looked up to Jay Whitley as a teacher when he was playing ahead of you."

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Prizes:** **2 Grand Prizes:** A trip for 2 to each of the following 5 events: Super Bowl XXXVII (San Diego, CA), 4 days/3 nights, 1/24/03–1/27/03; DAYTONA 500® (Daytona Beach, FL), 4 days/3 nights, 2/14/03–2/17/03; Kentucky Derby® (Louisville, KY), 3 days/2 nights, 5/3/03–5/5/03; The American Theatre Wing's Tony Awards® (New York, NY), 3 days/2 nights, 5/31/03–6/2/03; and Athens 2004 Olympic Games (Athens, Greece), 5 days/4 nights during the period of 8/13/04–8/29/04. Each trip consists of round-trip coach-class air travel for two from the major airport nearest winner's residence to the major airport nearest each scheduled-event venue; double occupancy hotel accommodations for 2; event tickets; scheduled meals; and transportation. In addition to the trips, a cash award of \$7,022.00 will be made for the year 2003 and a subsequent cash award of \$8,275.00 will be made for the year 2004, both of which the winner may use toward payment of taxes on prize. Approximate Retail Value ("ARV"): \$49,950.00; however, actual value depends upon residence of winner and time of travel. Total Prize Pool ARV: \$99,900.00. **6. Prize Restrictions:** The prizes are not transferable except Sponsor reserves right in its sole discretion to permit transfer of one or more of the prize events to a member of the immediate family of the winner under conditions specified by Sponsor. No substitution or cash equivalent of prizes permitted except at the sole discretion of Sponsor. Federal, state, and local taxes and any expenses relating to the acceptance and use of a prize not specified are the responsibility of each winner. Event dates are subject to change. Time of travel is subject to approval of Sponsor. Each winner and guest must be available to travel on dates specified by Sponsor, and must travel on the same itinerary. 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All guests must execute a Liability Release and, where legal, a Publicity Release prior to the issuance of the travel documents. If a prize or prize notification is undelivered or returned as undeliverable, that prize may be forfeited and awarded to an alternate winner. **8. Additional Terms:** By participating, entrants or, if minors, their parents or legal guardians agree to: a.) the Official Rules and the decisions of the judges and Sponsor, which shall be final in all respects; and b.) release, discharge, indemnify, and hold harmless National Football League, NASCAR, Daytona International Speedway, LLC, International Speedway Corporation, the League of American Theatres and Producers, the American Theatre Wing, Tony Awards Productions, Triple Crown Productions, Churchill Downs Incorporated, The Maryland Jockey Club of Baltimore City, Inc., The New York Racing Association, Inc., the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, Visa U.S.A. 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LSU MEMORIES

We were teammates, John Ed. That was the most important thing."

Lynne and Amy serve lasagna, green salad and blueberry cheesecake in the dining room, and afterward Marty and I move to the living room and sit together as dusk darkens the windows. He revisits the nightmare of his accident and the rough years that followed, but it isn't until he talks about his days as an LSU football player that he becomes emotional. "Nothing I've ever experienced compares to it," he says. "That first time I ran out with the team as a freshman—out into Tiger Stadium? God, I was 15 feet off the ground and covered with frissons. You know what frissons are? They're goose bumps. It's the French word for goose bumps." He lowers his head, and tears fill his eyes and run down his face. He weeps as I have wept, at the memory of how beautiful it all was. "It was the biggest high you could have," he says. "No drugs could match it. The way it felt to run out there with the crowd yelling for you. I wish every kid could experience that."

"If every kid could," I say, "then it wouldn't be what it is. It's because so few ever get there that it has such power."

We are quiet, and then he says, "Whenever I have a down time, or whenever I'm feeling sorry for myself, or whenever life is more than I can bear at the moment, I always do the same thing. I put the Tiger fight song on the stereo, and all the memories come back and somehow it makes everything O.K. All right, I say to myself. I can do it. I can do it. Let's go."

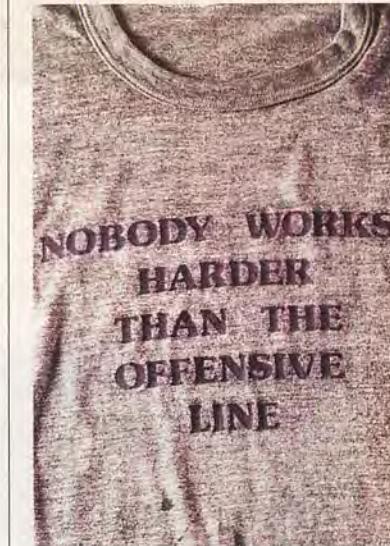
Marty and I talk deep into the night, oblivious to the time, and finally I get up to leave. He wheels his chair as far as the door, and as I'm driving away I look back and see him sitting there, a bolt of yellow light around him, arm raised in goodbye.

I could seek out each one of them and apologize for the vanishing act, but, like me, most of them eventually elected to vanish, too, moving into whatever roles the world had reserved for them. Last I heard, Jay Blass had become a commercial pilot. Greg Raymond returned to New Orleans and was running his family's jewelry store. Tom Tully became a veterinarian specializing in exotic birds, of all things. And Jay Whitley, somebody told me, is an orthodontist now, the father of four kids. If they're anything like their old man, they're stouthearted and fearless, and they eat linebackers for lunch.

When the pregame prayer and pep talks

were done, we'd come out of the chute to the screams of people who were counting on us. The band would begin to play; up ahead the cheerleaders were waiting. Under the crossbar of the goalpost we huddled, seniors in front. I was always afraid to trip and fall and embarrass myself, and for the first few steps I ran with a hand on the teammate next to me. Arms pumping, knees

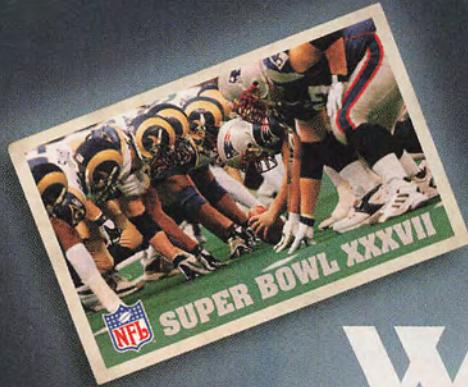
There was a time
when I
considered
stipulating that
I be buried in that
ratty T-shirt.



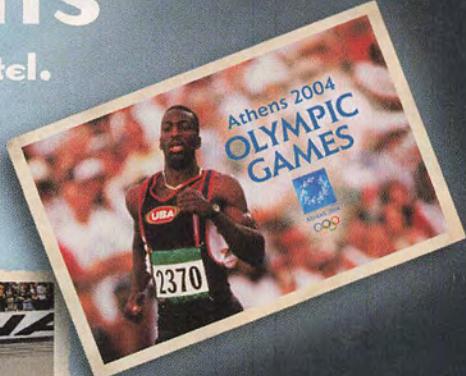
T'D UP The shirts ordered up by McDuff inspired Bradley and his mates.

lifted high. The heat felt like a dense, blistering weight in your lungs. If you looked up above the rim of the bowl you couldn't see the stars; the light from the standards had washed out the sky. Always in the back of your mind was the knowledge of your supreme good fortune. Everyone else would travel a similar course of human experience, but you were different.

And so, chin straps buckled tight, we filed out onto the field as one, the gold and the white a single elongated blur, neatly trimmed in purple. □



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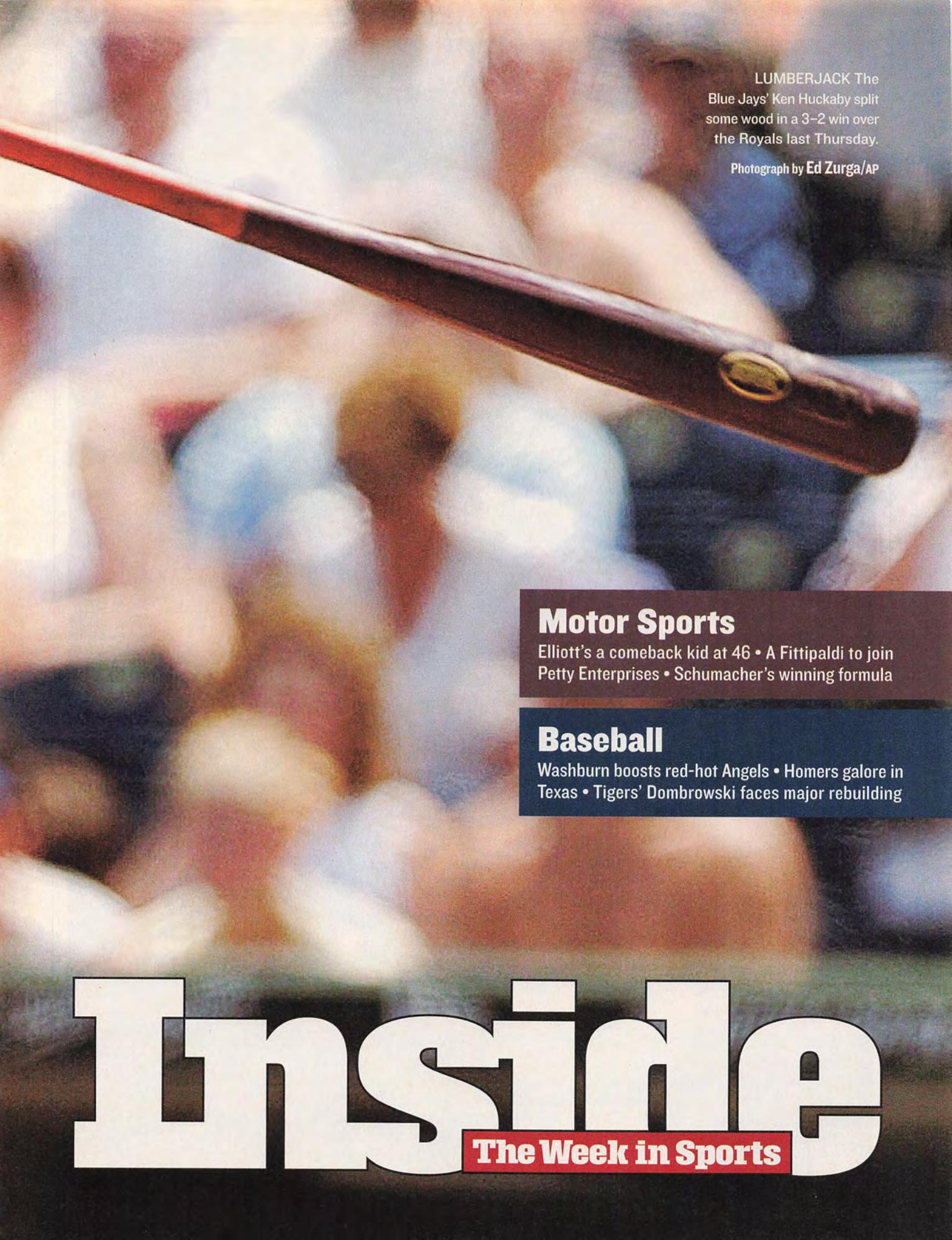
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LUMBERJACK The Blue Jays' Ken Huckaby split some wood in a 3-2 win over the Royals last Thursday.

Photograph by Ed Zurga/AP

Motor Sports

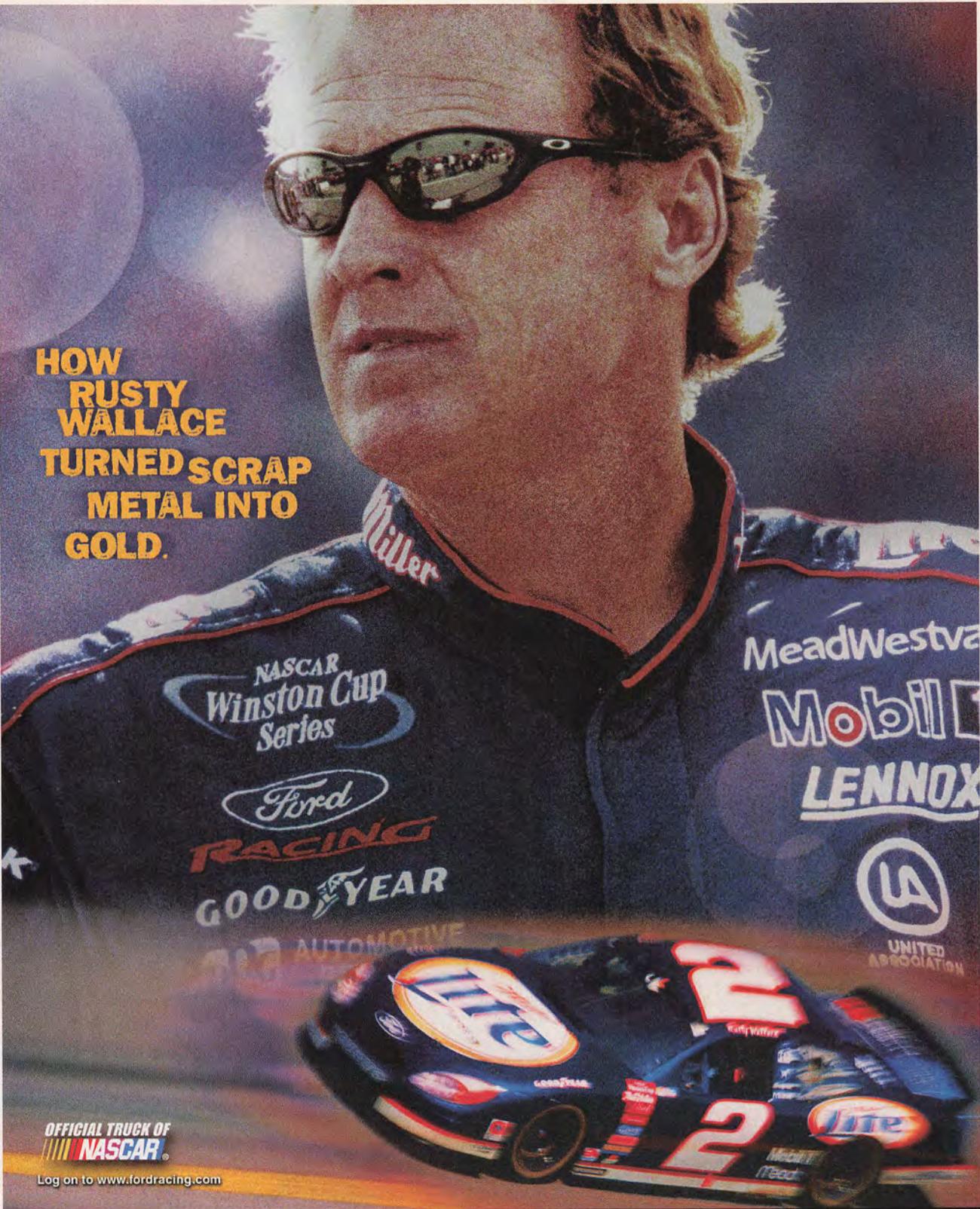
Elliott's a comeback kid at 46 • A Fittipaldi to join Petty Enterprises • Schumacher's winning formula

Baseball

Washburn boosts red-hot Angels • Homers galore in Texas • Tigers' Dombrowski faces major rebuilding

Inside

The Week in Sports



**HOW
RUSTY
WALLACE
TURNED SCRAP
METAL INTO
GOLD.**

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Rusty Wallace is driving hard to make this the 17th year in a row that he's won a race. So, it's hard to imagine that when he started out, he would comb junkyards for scrap radiators and batteries to raise the money to get to the races. "We did anything we could to raise a little bit of cash just to get us to the track," he remembers. "Then once we got to the track, we hoped that we'd run good enough to win the purse money to get us home. We did that week in and week out." All of that hard work has more than paid off. Wallace has collected well over 50 victories, as well as the 1989 Winston Cup Championship. And his string of 16 years in a row with a victory attests to his relentless determination. That's turning a dream into reality. That's ignoring boundaries. That's Team Ford Racing.



no boundaries

Inside Motor Sports



Old Man Winner

Down and nearly out in 2000, Bill Elliott, 46, is the Brickyard champ and a title threat

by Mark Bechtel

THERE WAS much talk at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Sunday about aging NASCAR drivers. After Jimmy Spencer booted Kurt Busch into the fence at 200 mph on Lap 36 of the Brickyard 400, their third on-track dustup in the past year, the 23-year-old Busch called the 45-year-old Spencer an "old, decrepit has-been" into every microphone stuck in his face. (For good measure, he also called him a "decrepit, old has-been.")

Then there was the guy who eventually won the race. A year and a half ago Bill Elliott, at age 45, looked like a man who was headed down the road to

Old, Decrepit Has-beenville, or worse—early retirement back home in Blairsville, Ga. The 1988 Winston Cup champion, Elliott had finished 21st in the points standings in 1999 and 2000 and hadn't won a race since September 1994, at Darlington. He had spent the previous six years struggling behind the wheel of a car he owned and that his sponsor, McDonald's, had dropped during the 2000 campaign. Money was so tight that crew members were sleeping on the floor at the race shop. So he sold the team to Ray Evernham at the end of the 2000 season and took a job driving for Evernham's fledgling Dodge program.

In the last 18 months Elliott

has won three races, including back-to-back victories in the Pennsylvania 500 and the Brickyard, and he is now sitting in sixth place in the title chase, only 210 points out of the top spot. "Bill went from being like, 'Man, this is a struggle,' to where he's the guy to beat," says another oldie-but-goodie, 45-year-old Rusty Wallace, who finished second to Elliott on Sunday.

Elliott is as old school as they come. Growing up in Dawsonville, Ga., he developed a penchant for colloquial syntax constructions that would make an English teacher blanch. (After the Brickyard he noted that by running 295 practice laps at the track two weeks before, "I done

After bagging the Brickyard, Elliott made the traditional postvictory buss stop.

run two races before I got here.") He flourished in the 1980s, when drivers could more easily make a living as a racer and an owner. But he's enjoying his renaissance working for the New Jersey-born Evernham, 44, who made his mark as Jeff Gordon's crew chief in the 1990s, when the sport became more high-tech and corporate.

Elliott and Evernham seem like an odd couple, but they have one important element in common: They can talk about cars all day long. Evernham got to know Elliott when setting up cars for the IROC series, and even after finding fame and fortune with Gordon he remained in close contact with Elliott. "When you talk to a driver you can pretty much tell if that guy is on the ball," says Evernham. "When I was leaving to start [the Dodge operation], I'd talk to Jeff Gordon a lot and he'd say of Bill, 'Look, you need to get that guy.' "

So he did. Evernham called Elliott and offered him a lifeline. "If you stay in this sport long enough, you're going to ride that roller coaster up and down," says Elliott. "The guys who have had

Veterans' Days

For all the talk of a youth movement in NASCAR, Bill Elliott's victory at the Brickyard speaks to the contrary: a significant decrease from last season in the percentage of races won by drivers in their 20s.

VICTORIES		
AGES	2001	2002
20-29	15 (41%)	5 (24%)
30-39	10 (28%)	7 (33%)
40-49	11 (31%)	9 (43%)



Petty will be bringing another famous surname—Fittipaldi—to his race team.

the most successful careers have had stable foundations. I was stable in the '80s doing my own deal, but then the sport got so big I couldn't keep up. [After that] I just kept going down different roads, and I never could put things together in the right direction. I feel like I've had a second chance at life. I could have walked away just about easier than I could have stayed."

It took half a year for Evernham's program to get off the ground, but by late 2001 Elliott, Evernham and crew chief Mike Ford were clicking. In his last 38 starts Elliott has 15 top 10 finishes. "He hasn't lost anything," says Wallace. "He's got a crew chief and a team that's really behind him. They're well-oiled. They're running great. Their pit stops are fast, and Evernham's doing a great job running the company. They're on it."

Petty Enterprises' Future

A Fittipaldi To the Rescue?

Kyle Petty is fond of saying that Petty Enterprises is auto racing's equivalent of the New York Yankees. If that's the case, then last year for the Pettys was the

equivalent of the Yanks' 1990 season, when the most feared Bomber was Steve Balboni and the club finished last in the American League East. With Kyle running the business his grandfather Lee and his dad, Richard, had built into a NASCAR powerhouse, the team's three-car stable was awful: John Andretti finished 31st in the Winston Cup standings, Buckshot Jones was 41st and Kyle, who failed to qualify for 12 races, ended up 43rd.

Part of the problem was that Petty, as one of few owner-drivers on the circuit, was wearing too many hats. So last January he brought in veteran crew chief Robin Pemberton to serve as general manager and handle many of the day-to-day details. "I don't have 10 jobs this year, I probably only have three or four," says Petty. "Like any driver, I would like to have one job: driver. But that's never going to happen for me."

Adding Pemberton, however, has paid off. Petty's 21-spot jump in the standings, to 22nd after a 25th-place finish in the Brickyard 400, is the biggest in Winston Cup this season. Petty's top 20 finishes have increased from two in 2001 to 12 already (in 21 races) this year.

With the operation's short-term prospects looking better, Petty has to turn his attention to the long haul. When Kyle took over as CEO of Petty Enterprises from his father in 1999, he said that he was going to focus primarily on building a strong team around his son Adam, who was regarded as one of the sport's most promising young drivers. However, on May 12, 2000, Adam was killed during practice for a Busch Series race in New Hampshire. Losing Adam left a void at Petty Enter-

prises and contributed heavily to Kyle's miserable 2001 season. "Adam was going to be our future, he was going to be who we were going to be 10 years down the road," says Kyle. "His accident pretty much shut me down, and things got away from me to some degree."

Needing a young driver to rebuild the team around, Petty hired the 30-year-old Jones, who never finished higher than 12th and was released in April. (Meanwhile, Andretti is 29th overall, with only one top 10 finish.) "We started down that road with Buckshot, and it just didn't work out," says Petty. "Long term, we need somebody young who we can build a program around, but we don't feel like that person is in the Winston Cup garage yet. We're not in-

terested in recycling a driver. We've got to go get a new driver."

That person, sources at Petty Enterprises told SI, will be 30-year-old CART driver Christian Fittipaldi, who, in addition to racing in several Busch and perhaps ARCA events, will make an undetermined number of Winston Cup starts in 2003, thus becoming the circuit's first Brazilian-born driver. The talented, if injury-prone, nephew of former Formula One champion Emerson Fittipaldi drove F/1 cars for three years before moving to CART in 1995, finishing as high as fifth in the points in '96.

Bringing Christian Fittipaldi onto the team is not quite on a par with, say, the Yankees signing Jason Giambi, but it's a good start. □

The Schumacher Formula

There are few surer things in sports than a Michael Schumacher victory in Formula One—and few reasons to believe that's going to change

In 12 Formula One races this year 32-year-old Michael Schumacher has nine wins, two seconds and a third. He clinched his fifth championship with six races remaining. Here are five reasons for his astounding success:

- 1. His Teutonic aura.** With his steely gaze and air of invincibility the German driver looks indomitable. Behind the wheel he is fearless and seems to possess superhuman reflexes and instincts.
- 2. His risk-taking.** After winning F/1 titles in 1994 and '95 for Benetton, he gave up a shot at three in a row to join what was then a struggling Ferrari team. Five years later, he was back on top.
- 3. Ferrari's bankroll.** Formula One cars have more gizmos and goodies than Austin Powers's Shaguar, and no other team has the resources or personnel to match Ferrari. In 2001 the car manufacturer sank an estimated \$302 million into its F/1 operation—some \$15 million more than McLaren, the next-highest-spending team.
- 4. The front-runners' edge.** You're more likely to see a lead change in a funeral procession than at an F/1 race. Schumacher has started on the pole in four of his nine victories this season and has qualified no worse than fourth.
- 5. His loyal understudy.** The driver with the best chance of beating him is Rubens Barrichello—his teammate. However, Schumacher is the star at Ferrari, so Barrichello's job is to do whatever he can to get the German the title. That might mean pulling over on the final straightaway after dominating the entire race (as he did during Schumacher's victory at the Austrian Grand Prix in May).





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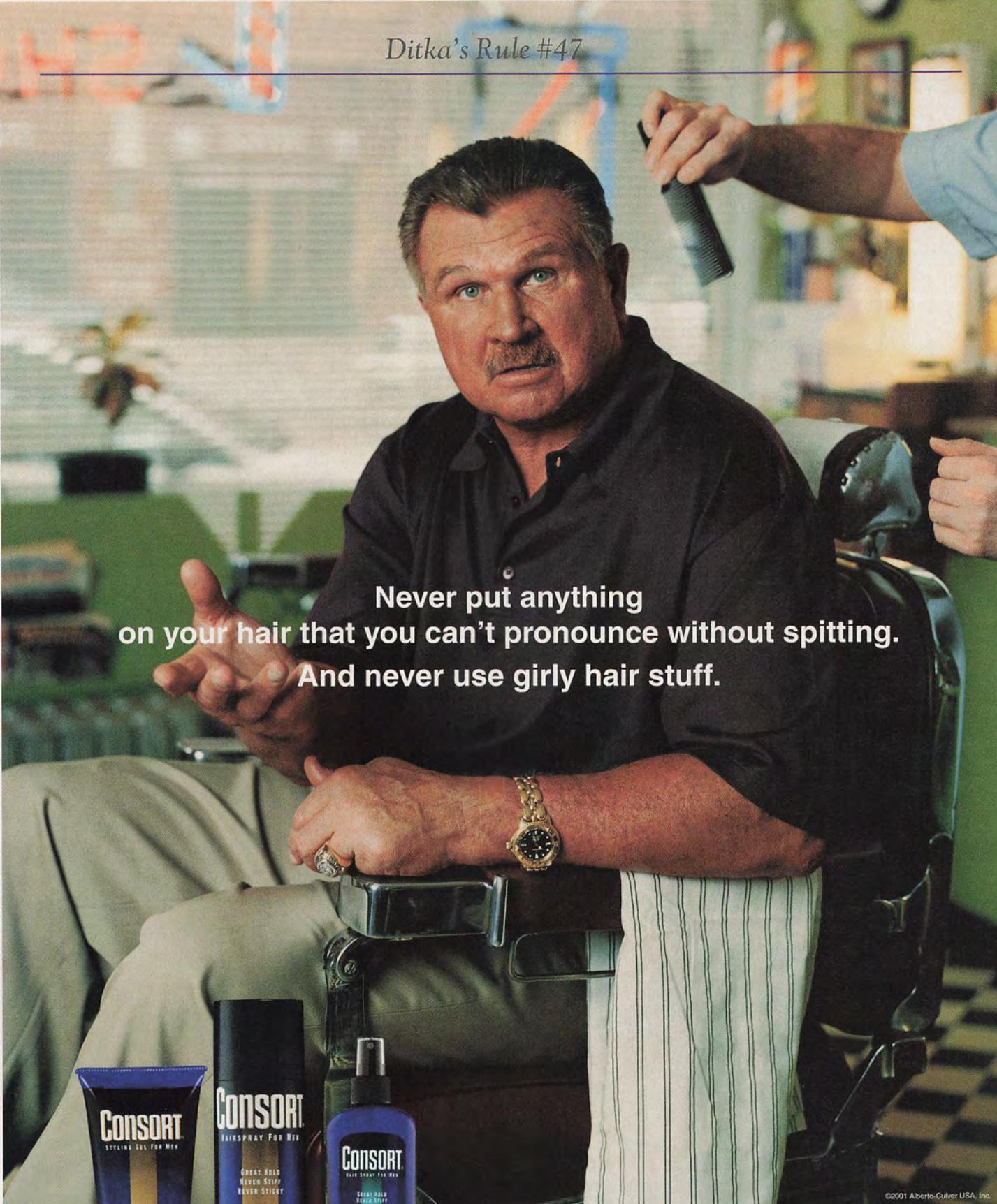
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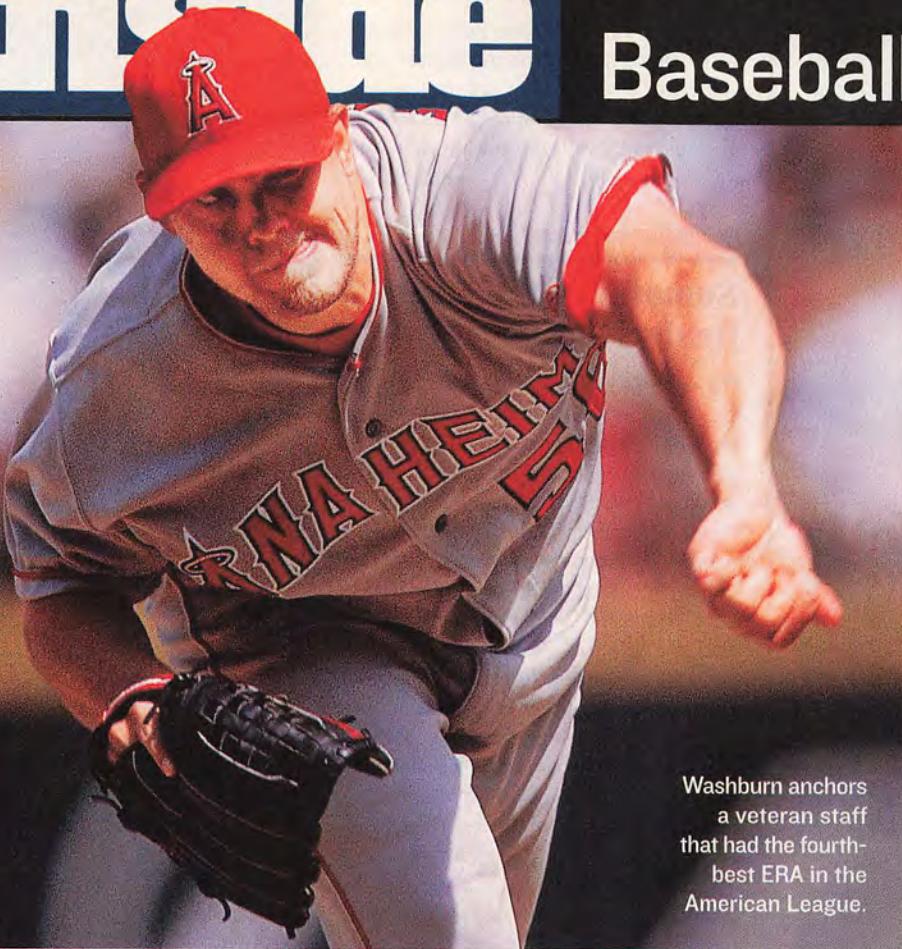
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Inside Baseball



Washburn anchors a veteran staff that had the fourth-best ERA in the American League.

Almost Heaven

The Angels are in the playoff hunt thanks to players like lefthander Jarrod Washburn

by Jeff Pearlman

STANDING IN front of his locker before last Saturday's 5-4 win over the Yankees, Angels shortstop David Eckstein gazed around the home clubhouse at Edison Field and chuckled. "The best thing about our team," he said, "is that we're not glamorous. We're a bunch of guys who have had to find success the hard way."

One of the best examples is 27-year-old lefthander Jarrod Washburn. A native of Webster,

Wis. (pop. 623), Washburn has become one of the top starters in the American League and was 13-3 through Sunday.

After splitting a four-game series with New York last weekend, Anaheim stood three games back of the Mariners in the AL West and was tied with the Red Sox in the wild-card race. While much of the credit for the Angels' success—they were on pace to win a franchise-record 96 games—goes to outfielders Darin Erstad and Tim Salmon,

the rejuvenated starting rotation (4.09 ERA, fourth best in the AL) led by Washburn was equally deserving.

Although his dreams of major league stardom began when he was a youngster, Washburn was anything but a prodigy. His only opportunity to play baseball after graduating from Webster High in 1992 was at Wisconsin-Oshkosh, but, "even they didn't come after me," Washburn says.

In two seasons with the Titans he went 15-2 with a 1.97 ERA

and helped lead them to the Division III national title in 1994. After striking out 89 in '95 and earning second-team All-America honors, Washburn was drafted in the second round by the Angels. He quickly moved through the organization, developing late movement on his exceptional fastball, and made his big league debut in June '98.

Washburn pitched well in parts of three seasons with Anaheim (17-10, 4.46 ERA in 45 games combined), but a variety of injuries sent him to the disabled list four times between March 2000 and April '01, limiting his effectiveness. He wound up 11-10 with a 3.77 ERA in 30 starts last year. After undergoing physical therapy during the off-season, Washburn reported to spring training healthy and confident. With the addition of veteran righthanders Kevin Appier (9-9, 4.22 at week's end) and Aaron Sele (8-7, 4.61) to the rotation, Washburn was sure the Angels could contend in the AL West.

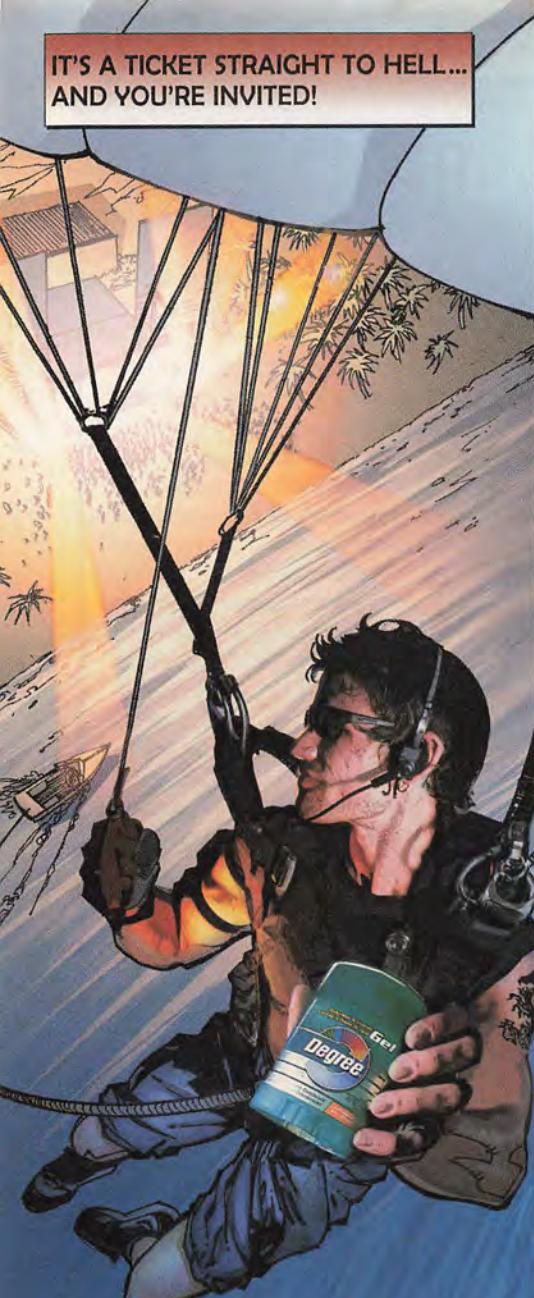
"I knew we'd be in this position," Washburn says. "All you had to do was look around. Yeah, we're a team of misfits. But we're misfits who know how to play."

Home Runs Skyrocket

The Wind Tunnel In Arlington

With 175 home runs hit at The Ballpark in Arlington through Sunday, including 37 last week, the home of the Rangers has become the major leagues' No. 1 launchpad. The Ballpark was on track for 240 homers this season, up from 233 last year (second only to the 268 hit at Coors Field) and 209 in 2000. You might say the jump in dingers happened by design. Before last season the Rangers en-

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Inside Baseball

closed an area of club seats high in the stadium behind home plate, and the new construction altered the wind patterns in The Ballpark. The resulting jet-stream effect pushes fly balls out toward right and right centerfield.

—Albert Chen

Rebuilding in Detroit

Sometimes the Truth Really Hurts

During a July 19 talk with season-ticket holders, Tigers president and general manager Dave Dombrowski provided a rare peek inside the team's rebuilding process, and it wasn't pretty. Delivering zingers as if he were the emcee at a Friars Club roast, Dombrowski named seven veteran players—outfielder Bobby Higginson; infielders Damion Easley, Dean Palmer and Craig Paquette; and pitchers Matt Anderson, Danny Patterson and Steve Sparks—whom he said were untradable because they were overpaid and underachieving. Lamenting the degree to which those players had hamstrung his ability to repair the franchise, Dombrowski laughingly challenged his audience: "If you can trade [them], call me tomorrow."

Although the talk wasn't a savvy public relations move, his comments, for which Dombrowski apologized three days later, were dead-on. At week's end the hapless Tigers



Losses and criticism have frustrated the Tigers, including catcher Brandon Inge.

(41-69) were in last place in the American League Central, 27 games out of first. Since Dombrowski replaced Randy Smith as G.M. on April 8, his mission has been to unload as many of those veteran contracts as possible (the seven players named will earn about \$40 million next season) as part of an overall restructuring of the organization.

In truth Dombrowski appears to have made several shrewd personnel moves. In five trades he has obtained several promising players, including first baseman Carlos Peña (.305 and 17 RBIs in 26 games with the Tigers) and outfielder George Lombard (.269, five stolen bases in 33 games). In addition budding closer Franklyn German (16 saves in 41½ innings at Double A Midland before the trade from the A's on July 5) and infielder David Espinosa (44 RBIs and 26 stolen bases for Class A Stockton before his July 23 trade from the Reds) are prospects who will be counted on down the road. Says one American League executive, "Given the hand he was dealt, he's done a good job."

Dombrowski remains cautious in his assessment of a club that he predicted would be competitive this season. "We need to add more talent and depth to the organization," he says. "We have a ways to go. It's a long-term project."

—Daniel G. Habib

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Color Scheme



by Rick Reilly

I get stopped. It never happens in my truck, just in my nice cars."

Denver Broncos defensive tackle Trevor Pryce says an officer followed him home once, pulled him over and said, "I don't think this is your car." And Pryce replied, "Why, because I'm black and driving a Corvette?" Pryce has been pulled over for DWB so many times he has a new strategy. "I pull up right next to cops," he says, "roll down my windows and play my music as loud as I can. Nobody would do that driving a stolen car, right?"

"It's happened to me eight or nine times," says Miami Heat guard Jim Jackson. "I asked one cop in Dallas why he pulled me over, and he goes, 'Oh, we're just doing random checks.' Right. Random checks of black men in nice cars."

When comedian Chris Rock was pulled over on a DWB, he jokes, "It scared me so bad, I thought I had stolen my car!"

Three times this summer, Miami Dolphins running back Ricky Williams says, Fort Lauderdale police have stopped or hassled him for nothing more than the color of his skin.

"One cop pulled me over for no other reason than I was a black man driving an expensive car [a Hummer]," says Williams, the former Heisman Trophy winner who moved to south Florida after being traded to the Dolphins in March. "They said later it was because my tags were expired. But it was a handwritten temporary license they couldn't possibly have been able to see. For that they call the drug dogs and I get handcuffed?" The stop and search lasted an hour and a half, Williams says, and then he was ticketed for expired tags and for not having his driver's license and proof of insurance in his possession.

Twice cops have knocked on his front door to tell him his garage was open, Williams says, and then asked him for proof that he owned his cars. They questioned him about what he did

for a living and how much he paid for the cars. It's the kind of frustration that white athletes never have to deal with.

Williams has started taking the long way to work so he doesn't have to drive past a police station. Other guys just give up and drive crappy cars. Sometimes these guys don't even have to be in a car.

"You go into a Tiffany's in the mall," says Jackson, "and right away you notice the lights [brighten]. Then the clerk follows you around, pretending she's just cleaning up. I came out of a restaurant once and the valet goes, 'Man, what did you do to get a car like this?' I was like, 'I got a job, that's what I did!'"

The dreadlocked Williams says that when he flies first class, more times than not attendants ask to see his ticket, assuming he's in the wrong seat. Houston Rockets forward Glen Rice wasn't allowed to check into a five-star hotel by a woman behind the desk who insisted, "I know what you're about."

"What am I about?" asked Rice, who refused to leave until he was given a room. The desk clerk called police, who recognized Rice and advised the woman to give him a room. That's when Rice said no thanks and walked out.

"You work hard to be successful, to get some nice things," says Jim Jackson, "and people treat you like you stole them."

Says Jackson, "I don't think most of white America understands how it feels. You work hard to be successful, to get some nice things, and people treat you like you stole them."

"I guess cops think we're drug dealers," says Latrell Sprewell, the New York Knicks guard. "It pisses you off, but what pisses you off more is that when they see who you are, they suddenly change it to, 'Uh, I pulled you over to, uh, can I have your autograph?'"

When you mix cops with young men who feel persecuted, things can get volatile. "I feel myself boiling over," says Jackson. "But if I started yelling at the cops, next thing you know, I'd be in jail." Or worse. Remember the four young unarmed black men on their way to a basketball tryout who were profiled by troopers and stopped on the New Jersey Turnpike, then had 11 shots fired into their van, wounding three of them?

Williams was so frustrated by his treatment after one DWB stop that he started to walk home in protest, got a block and a half, then sat down on a curb and cried. "It hurts your feelings," he says. "Nobody likes to be treated like a criminal."

And we wonder why so many black athletes are angry. □

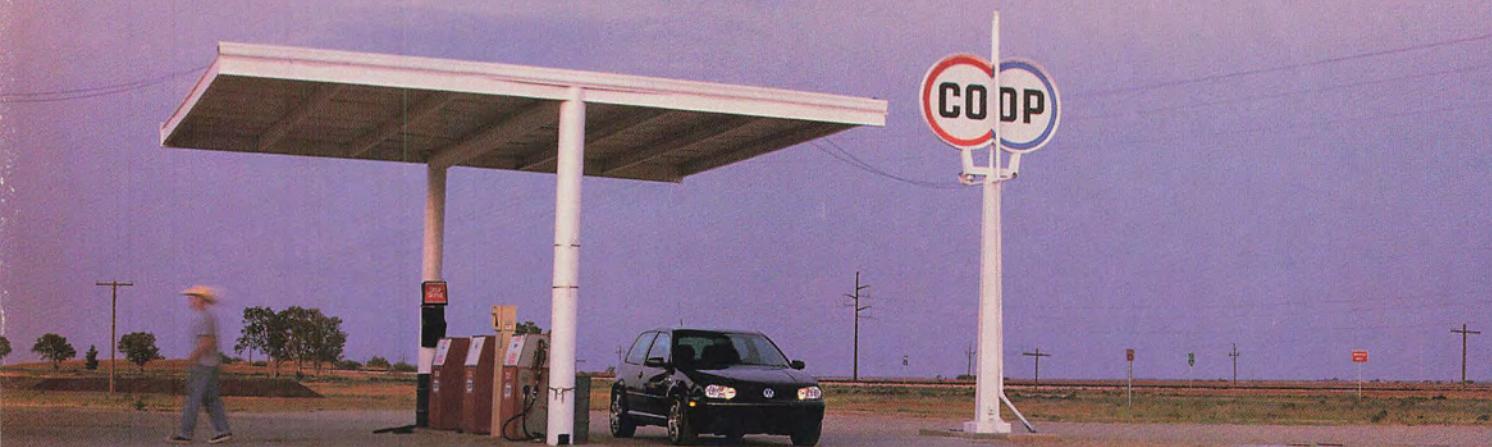
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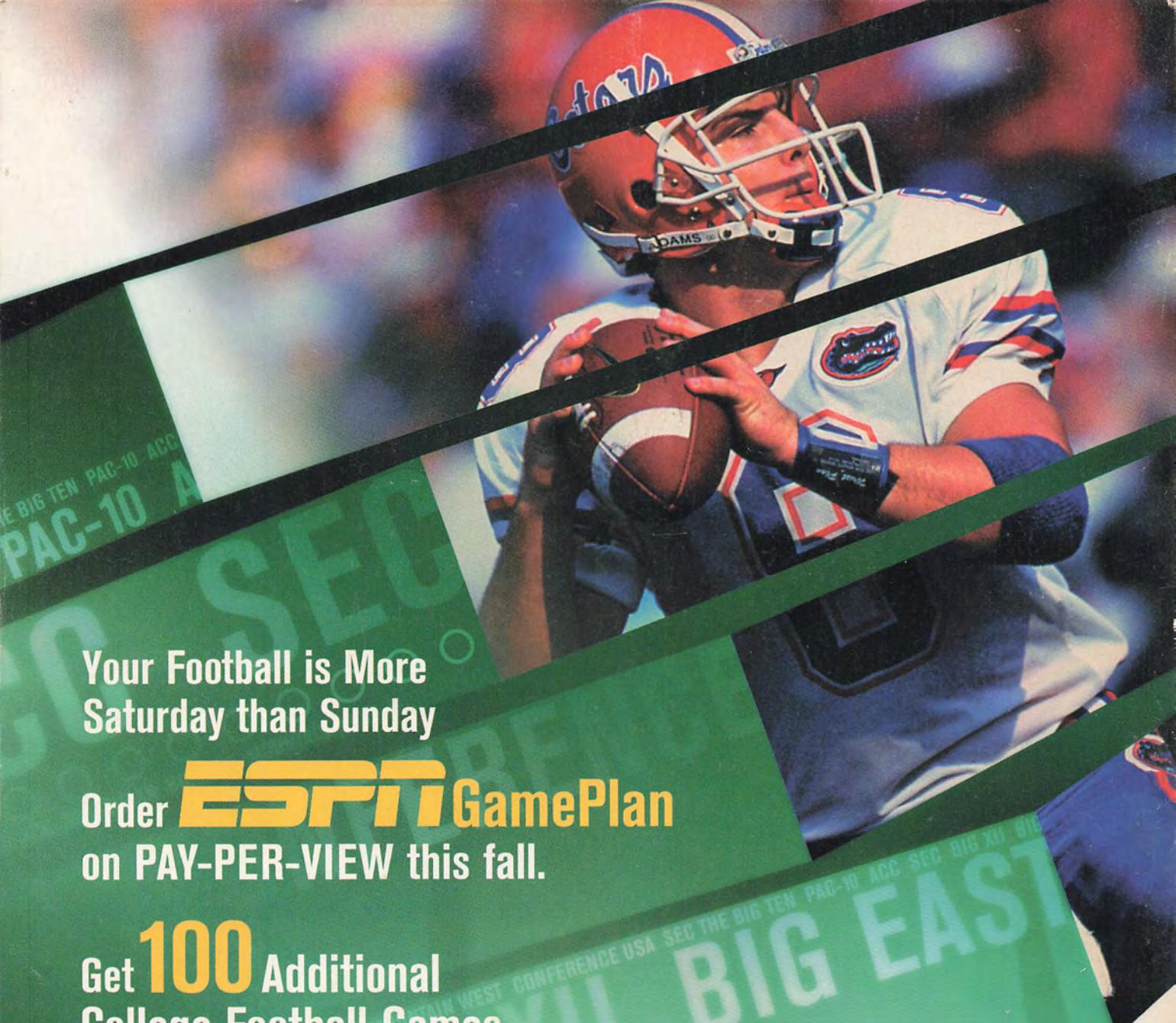
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